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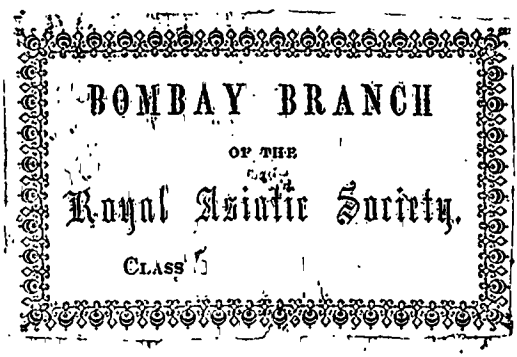

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REPORT

OF THE

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR THE

133541

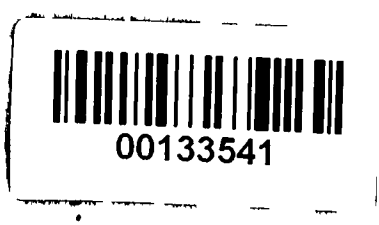
YEAR 1870-71.

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THE 4TH OCTOER 1871.

Bombay:
PRINTED FOR THE CHAMBER AT THE
"BOMBAY GAZETTE" STEAM PRESS, MEDOWS STREET.

1872.

BOMBAY: PRINTED AT THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE" STEAM PRESS.



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Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

ESTABLISHED 22nd SEPTEMBER, 1836.

List of Members.

Messrs. Aisen, Riebe & Co.
" Behrend Brothers.
" Bell, Brandenburg & Co.
" Blaecheck (A.) & Co.
" Campbell, Mitchell & Co.
" Clason (H.) & Co.
" Ewart, Latham & Co.
" Finlay, Muir & Co.
" Finlay, Scott & Co.
" Forbes & Co.
" Framjee, Sands & Co.
" Gaddum & Co.
" Graham (W. & A.) & Co.
" Grendon, Tippet & Co.
" Hutchison, Dods & Co.
" Killick, Nixon & Co.
" King (G. S.) & Co.
" Knoop & Co.
" Kunkler, Preiswerck & Co.
" Lawrence & Co.
" Leggatt & Co.
" Lockhart (George) & Co.
" Lyon & Co.
Messrs. Macdonald (C.) & Co.
" Nicol (W.) & Co.
" Peel, Cassels & Co.
" Ralli Brothers.
" Rennie, Scovell & Co.
" Ritchie, Steuart & Co.
" Sassoon (D.) & Co.
" Siegfried (Julfs) & Co.
" Stearns, Hobart & Co.
" Volkart Brothers.
" Wallace & Co.
" Watson, Bogle & Co.
The Agra Bank, Limited.
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.
The Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China.
The Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris.
The London, Asiatic, and American Company, Limited.
The National Bank of India.
The P. & O. S. N. Company.

RETIRING COMMITTE.

A. D. Grant, Esq., *Chairman.*
W. G. Hall, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

C. Douglas, Esq.
J. K. Bythell, Esq
Thomas Wilson, Esq.
W. Lang, Esq.
Captain G. F. Henry
} *Members.*

COMMITTEE FOR 1871-72.

W. G. Hall, Esq., *Chairman.*
J. K. Bythell, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

Captain G. F. Henry
James Macalister, Esq.
J. A. Forbes, Esq.
H. Dods, Esq.
James Douglas, Esq.
} *Members.*

James Taylor, Esq., *Secretary.*
Muckundrow Bhawoo, *Head Clerk*

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

Revised and adopted at a General Meeting held on 1st December, 1864

I. THAT the object and duties of the Chamber shall be to encourage a friendly feeling and unanimity among commercial men on all subjects involving their common good; to promote and protect the general mercantile interests of this Presidency; to collect and classify information on all matters of general commercial interest; to obtain the removal, as far as such a Society can, of all acknowledged griovances affecting merchants as a body, or mercantile interests in general; to receive and decide references on matters of usage and custom in dispute, recording such decisions for future guidance, and by this and other means assisting to form a code of practice for simplifying and facilitating business; to communicate with the public authorities, with similar Associations in other places, and with individuals on all subjects of general mercantile interest; and to arbitrate between parties willing to refer to, and abide by, the judgment of the Chamber.

II. That all persons engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits desirous of joining the Chamber, and disposed to aid in carrying into effect the objects of the same, shall be admitted Members by the vote of a majority of not less than two-thirds of those voting at a General Meeting, as provided for in Rule III.

III. That one-fourth of the firms constituting the Chamber shall be held sufficient to form any General Meeting when the same has

been regularly called together—one partner representing a firm; but two or more partners of one firm being present only to count as one Member of the Chamber. That seven clear days' notice shall be given before any resolution proposing changes in the Rules of the Chamber be brought forward, and that such notice be given in writing to the Secretary, who shall circulate it for the information of the Members of the Chamber.

IV. That the Chamber reserves to itself the right of expulsion in case of need, to be decided at a General Meeting by a majority of three-fourths of the Members present at such General Meeting duly convened.

V. The subscription of each firm or Member of the Chamber shall be Rs. 25 per month.*

VI. That the affairs and funds of the Association be managed by a Committee of seven Members, consisting of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Chamber and five Members, who shall be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Chamber in the month of September, and shall remain in office for one year, but be re-eligible on expiration of office. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman, as the case may be, to be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, and in their absence the Committee to elect their own Chairman. Three to be a quorum. In the event of any Member of the Committee resigning or declining to serve, the remaining Members of the Committee shall fill up the vacancy.

VII. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Members of Committee for election, must be proposed at least seven days before the General Meeting to be convened for the purpose of elections, and their names be published in the rooms of the Chamber for that period, and by circular. No two Members of one firm shall be on the Committee at the same time.

VIII. That all questions before the Committee shall be decided by a majority, the Chairman having a second or casting vote in case of an equality of voters.

IX. That the Committee shall meet on Friday, or on such other day as may be found by them most convenient, of every week, to receive and dispose of all communications and references, and to take under their consideration generally all matters embraced in the objects of the Chamber; and that their proceedings be laid on the table for the inspection of all Members, subject to such regulations as they may make.

* *Subscription.*—The following resolution was adopted at a Meeting of the Chamber on April 11th, 1870.—"That the subscription to the Chamber be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20, and that the charge for a copy of each of the publications to Members be Re. 1 per mensem."

X. That General Meetings of the Chamber be held quarterly for the purpose of discussing any measures of public interest which may arise, and that in the interval between the Meetings the Committee of the Chamber be intrusted with the selection of subjects for discussion at those meetings, and give notice of the same to the Members beforehand. That a Special General Meeting shall be called by the Chairman, or by his order, seven days after the receipt of a requisition from any three firms, Members of the Chamber; but that a majority of firms, represented by one or more Members from each firm, being Members of the Chamber, be required to constitute such General Meeting, and that the Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of September, on such day as the Committee for the time being shall direct, such meeting to be convened on a seven days' notice. That all General Meetings of the Chamber shall be advertised in the newspapers.

XI. That the Committee be authorized to provide suitable accommodation for the meeting of the Chamber, to pay all expenses of the establishment, and to control generally the management of the affairs of the Chamber.

XII. That all moneys or funds of the Chamber, as received, be paid into the hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, and that the same be available by cheques signed by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Acting Chairman for the time being, and by one other Member of the Committee.

XIII. That a Secretary be appointed by a majority of Members in such way as the Committee for the time being may point out; that it shall be the duty of such Secretary to keep the records and accounts of the Chamber, to collect subscriptions, handing the same over to the Treasurer, to conduct correspondence, and to act generally under the directions of the Committee.

XIV. That all the proceedings of the Committee be subject to approval or otherwise of General Meetings duly convened.

XV. That any stranger engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits visiting the Presidency may be introduced as a visitor by any Member of the Chamber inserting his name in a book to be kept for the purpose, but that a residence of two months shall subject him to the rule for the admission of Members.

XVI. *Honorary Members.*—Gentlemen distinguished for public services, or eminent in commerce and manufactures, may be elected Honorary Members of the Chamber, and as such shall be exempted from paying subscriptions.

XVII. That an annual report of the proceedings be made, and copies sent to the similar Associations in India, China, and elsewhere.

XVIII. That the foregoing Rules be added to, or altered, only by a majority of Members of the Chamber.

XIX. That the firms whose signatures are attached be considered as acknowledging the "Bombay Chamber of Commerce" as now constituted, to represent their public and united interests.

XX. That the foregoing Rules be copied into a book, to be kept with the records of the Chamber, and be signed by all the Members, and that copies be printed and delivered to each firm.

TONNAGE SCALE AT BOMBAY

At a General Meeting of Merchants held in the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, on the 6th of June 1856, convened by circular under the direction of the Committee of the Chamber, William Forsyth Hunter, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber, in the chair, it was proposed by Henry Scott, Esq., of Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co., seconded by John Campbell, Esq., of Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell & Co., and unanimously carried,—"That from and after the 1st of January 1857 the following amended Scale be taken to regulate the Trade from Bombay and the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom, in the absence of special agreement to the contrary":—

Articles.	To the Ton.
Aloes, in kegs	16 cwt.
Alum, in bags	20 ,,
Annato, in cases	50 feet.
Apparel	50 ,,
Arrowroot, in cases	50 ,,
Assafœtida, in cases	50 ,,
Barilla	20 cwt.
Bees' Wax, in cases	50 feet.
Betelnut, in bags	16 cwt.
Blackwood, in straight square logs	50 feet.
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Books	50 feet.
Borax, in cases	50 ,,
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Bullion	per cent.
Camphor, in cases	50 feet.
Canes, Rattans, in bundles	16 cwt.
Cardamoms, in bundles	50 feet.
Cassia Lignea, Fistula, and Buds	50 ,,
Chasaum	10 cwt.
China Root, in cases	50 feet.
Cigars	50 feet.
Cinnamon, in bales	6 cwt.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Cloves, in cases	50 ,,

ARTICLES.—(*Continued.*)	To the Ton.
Cloves, in bags or frazils	10 cwt.
Coals	20 ,,
Cocoa, in bags	12 ,,
Cocculus Indicus, in bags	16 ,,
Coffee, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bags or frazils	16 cwt.
Coir, in bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or loose	6 cwt.
Do. Rope in coils	8 ,,
Colocynth, in cases	50 feet.
Colombo Root, in bags	14 cwt.
Copra, in robins	12 ,,
Do, in bags	12 ,,
Coral, Rough (not Specimen), in bags	20 ,,
Cotton, in bales	50 feet.
Cowries, in cases	50 ,,
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Cubebs...	12 ,,
Cummin Seed, in cases	50 feet.
Cutch or Terra Japonica, in bags or baskets, unscrewed...	16 cwt.
Dates, wet	20 ,,
Do. dry	16 ,,
Dragon's Blood, in cases	50 feet.
Ebony, square and straight...	50 ,,
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Elephants' Teeth, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bundles	18 cwt.
Do. loose	20 ,,
Furniture	50 feet.
Galingals	12 cwt.
Galls, in bags...	16 ,,
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Ginger, dry, in cases...	50 ,,
Do. in bags	12 cwt.
Gram	20 ,,
Ground Nuts, shelled	16 ,,
Gums, of all kinds, in cases...	50 feet.
Gum Olibanum, in bags	16 cwt.
Hurtall, in cases	50 feet.
Hemp, in screwed bales	50 ,,
Do. loose or in bundles...	7 cwt.
Hides and Skins, in screwed bales...	50 feet.
Hides and Skins, loose and in small bundles	12 cwt.
Horns, Buffalo and Cow, loose	16 ,,
Horns, Deer, loose	8 ,,
Horn Tips, of any kind	16 ,,
Indigo, in cases	50 feet.
Jackwood	50 ,,

ARTICLES—(*Continued*).	To the Ton.
Lac Dye, in shells or cases	50 feet.
Linseed, in bags	18 cwt.
Mace, in cases...	50 feet.
Mother-o'-Pearl, in cases	50 ,,
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Munjeet or Madder Root, in cases or bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or bags	12 cwt.
Musk, in cases	50 feet.
Myrabolams, in bags	16 cwt.
Nutmegs, in cases	50 feet.
Nux Vomica, in cases	50 ,,
Do. in bags	16 cwt.
Oil, of any kind, in casks	...210 Im.gals.
Oil Seeds, Teel, Rape, Mustard, Khorassan, and Castor.	17 cwt.
Opium	per chest.
Paddy, in bags	16 cwt.
Pepper, in bags	16 ,,
Pimento	14 ,,
Plumbago, in bags	20 ,,
Rattans, in bundles	16 ,,
Do. Ground	16 ,,
Red Wood	16 ,,
Rhubarb, in cases	50 feet.
Rice, in bags	20 cwt.
Safflower, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in screwed bales	50 ,,
Do. in bags	10 cwt.
Sago, in cases	50 feet.
Sal Ammoniac, in cases	50 ,,
Do. in bags	18 cwt.
Saltpetre	20 ,,
Sandal and Sapan Wood	16 ,,
Sealing Wax, in cases	50 feet.
Senna, in bags...	6 cwt.
Do. in bales	50 feet.
Shells, Rough, in bags	20 cwt.
Silk, in bales	10 ,,
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Soap, in cases	50 ,,
Sugar, in bags	20 cwt.
Talc	20 ,,
Tallow	50 feet.
Tamarinds	18 cwt.
Tea, in chests	50 feet.
Timber, Teak; Square Planks and Poon...	50 ,,
Do. Round, one-fifth off.	
Tobacco, in bales	50 ,,
Tortoise Shells, in chests	50 ,,

ARTICLES—(*Continued.*)	To the Ton.
Turmeric, in bags	13 cwt.
Tutenague	20 ,,
Unrated Wood...	14 ,,
Whanghees (*vide* Canes)	16 ,,
Wheat	20 ,,
Wines and Spirits, in casks	50 feet.
Do. in cases	50 ,,
Wool, in screwed bales	50 ,,
Zedory	20 cwt.

*** The Standard Ton at Bombay for Measurement Goods shall be taken at 50 cubic feet.

Proposed by James Fleming, Esq., of Messrs. W. Nicol & Co., and seconded by William Trevor Roper, Esq., of Messrs. Lawrence & Co., and carried unanimously—"That the Freight on Oil be paid on the full gauge of the Cask, ascertained at the port of discharge."

Proposed by Thomas Stock Cowie, Esq., of Messrs. Remington & Co., and seconded by John Parsons, Esq., of Messrs. Cardwell, Parsons & Co., and carried unanimously—"That when Freight is payable on weight the same is to be on the Nett Weight delivered."

(Signed) W. F. HUNTER,

Chairman.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the Measurement by Callipers upon Exports from Bombay of Cotton, Wool, Hemp, and other Pressed Bales, as revised and adopted by the Chamber of Commerce, at a Special General Meeting held on Wednesday, the 2nd November, 1870.

I. THAT Callipers shall from time to time be submitted to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and if found correct, shall be branded with a stamp bearing the name of the Chamber, to indicate the same.

II. That if, from use or otherwise, any Calliper should get out of order and be objected to, the party objecting shall send the Callipers to the Chamber for examination, and should the objection be valid, the Chamber stamp shall be defaced by the Secretary. If, however, the objection is found to be groundless, the Secretary shall give a note to that effect, and the party objecting shall be bound by his decision.

III. That any Callipers found incorrect, and on which the stamp has been defaced, may be re-stamped after adjustment.

IV. That no measurements shall be held good except such as are taken by Callipers bearing the Chamber's stamp.

V. That public Measurers shall be appointed under the authority of the Chamber of Commerce, and stationed at the different Bunders, to measure pressed bales of Cotton, Wool, Hemp, and other merchandise.

VI. That a Fee, the amount of which shall in no case exceed half an anna per bale, but which may be regulated by the Chamber from time to time in order to meet the expenses of the necessary establishment, shall be levied on all bales measured by the duly-appointed Measurers.

VII. That no bales be measured without the production of the Custom House Pass bearing the endorsement of the Measurement Fee Clerk, to the effect that the Fee has been paid.

VIII. That the Measurers shall measure not less than five bales in every hundred ascertaining the length of the bale and the greatest width and depth over the lashings, and as near the centre of the bale as possible, but not over the knots.

IX. That the Measurer shall give a Certificate of Measurement, which must accompany the bales to the ship or steamer, and shall furnish the Shipper with a copy thereof: This Certificate, which shall be retained by the ship, shall state—

The date and hour of measurement,	The name of the ship or steamer,
The number of the boat,	The number of bales,
The name of the Tindal,	The marks of the bales,
The name of the shipper,	The measurement.

X. That the Shipper shall, if required, in writing, give the Agent of the ship or steamer notice, in writing, of the time when, and the name of the Bunder on which his bales will be measured, in order that the ship or steamer may be represented.

XI. That the bales shall be alongside the ship or steamer within 36 hours after measurement, weather permitting, or the Certificate shall be void, and the bales shall be re-measured on board, written notice however in such case being given to the Shipper, so that he may have the option of attending.

XII. That the salaries of the Measurers, and all other expenses connected with this scheme of measurement, be paid by the Chamber from the Fee Fund raised under these Rules.

XIII. That a Special Committee of two Members of the Chamber be appointed by the General Committee, into whose charge shall be placed all matters pertaining to the measurement of Cotton, as defined above, including the appointment of the Measurers, the fixing of their salaries, the payment of the same, and the doing of all things necessary for a proper and economical working of the scheme. That in case of any difference between the two Members of the Committee the matter in question shall be decided by the General Committee of the Chamber.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce,
2nd *November*, 1870.

GENERAL RATES OF COMMISSION.

Table of General Rates of Commission chargeable in Bombay, as revised by the Chamber of Commerce, and confirmed at a General Meeting held on the 11th February, 1843.

		Per Cent.
1.	On procuring freight ... ... Brokerage, when actually incurred, shall be considered a legitimate charge in ship's accounts.	5
2.	On collecting freight	2½
3.	On tendering a vessel (if accepted) for the conveyance of troops ; on the amount of the charter party ...	5
4.	On shipping goods of every description on which no commission for the purchase has been charged ...	2½
5.	On shipping treasure, bullion, and jewellery	1
6.	On ship's disbursements when in funds	1
7.	On ship's disbursements when not in funds	2½
8.	On account of passage-money, whether the same passes through the Agent's hands or not	2½
9.	On effecting insurance	½
10.	On settling insurance losses, whether partial or total, also on procuring return of premium, exclusive of commission on receipt of cash...	2½
11.	On the sale or purchase of goods of all denominations (except as under)	5
12.	On purchases of all kinds with the proceeds of goods sold, and on which a commission of 5 per cent. has been previously charged	2½
13.	On the sale or purchase of ships, houses, and lands, of opium, and of diamonds, pearls, and jewellery of all descriptions	2½
14.	On the sale or purchase of treasure or bullion	1
15.	On the sale or purchase of cattle	5½
16.	On goods consigned which are disposed of by outcry or sent to a shop, on net proceeds	5

		Per Cent.
17.	On goods consigned and afterwards withdrawn, invoice cost	2½
18.	On guaranteeing the responsibility of person to whom goods are sold on the amount of sale...	2½
19.	On attending the delivery of contract goods to the Company or individuals	2½
20.	On collecting house-rent	2½
21.	On sale or purchase of private Bills of Exchange ...	1
22.	On effecting remittances by Bills of Exchange... ...	1
23.	On taking up at interest bills from the Company exclusive of one per cent. on remitting	1
24.	On exchanging Company's securities of all descriptions, or investing money therein, and on transferring Government paper from one constituent to another ...	½
25.	On surrendering or depositing in the Treasury Company's security of all descriptions	¼
26.	On procuring money on respondentia or on loan ...	2
27.	On recovering of bonds, or of bills for absentees overdue at the time of their being placed in the possession of the Agent	2
28.	On debts when a process at law by arbitration is necessary	2½
29.	On debts when recovered by such means	5
30.	On managing the affairs of the estate for an executor or administrator...	5
31.	On recovering funds from a bankrupt estate	2½
32.	On guaranteeing bills, bonds, or debts in general, by endorsement or otherwise	2½
33.	On bills of exchange returned noted or protested ...	1
34.	On granting and cashing letters of credit	2½
35.	On becoming security to Government or public bodies in any case	2½
36.	On depositing Government paper as security for constituents	1
37.	On receipt or payment, at the option of the Agent, of all moneys not arising from proceeds of goods on which commission has been previously charged ...	1
38.	In cases where the debtor side of the account exceeds the creditor side, including the balance of interest, commission to be charged at the rate of	1

NATIVE CONSIGNMENTS.—By a Resolution of the Chamber passed unanimously on the 29th of March 1866, it was ruled "that the recognised rate of commission in England on the sale of consignments from Bombay taken after this date be 3½ per cent., exclusive of brokerage and guarantee, and that the same be added to the Scale of Commissions sanctioned by the Chamber."

At a Special General Meeting of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, held on 30th April 1868, it was unanimously resolved that the following rates for ships' commissions be added to the general list of commissions approved by the Chamber :—

For executing orders to Charter or engage Tonnage in Bombay or at outports ... ...2½ per cent.

On realising Bottomry Bonds or negotiating any loan on *respondentia* ... ...2½ per cent.

On landing and re-shipping goods from any vessel in distress, stranded, or wrecked, or on landing or selling by auction damaged goods from any such vessel, and acting as agent for the Master on behalf of all concerned, on the declared value of all such goods as may be reshipped, and on net proceeds of all such goods as may be publicly sold ... ...5 per cent.

If Opium, Indigo, Raw Silk, or Silk Goods ... ...2½ per cent.

If Treasure, Precious Stones, or Jewellery ... ...1 per cent.

On moneys expended, *i.e.*, on all disbursements made in efforts to save Ship or Cargo ... ...5 per cent.

On Ships leaving the Port in ballast which have been consigned inward free of commission, 6 annas per ton upon the English tonnage.

On Ships leaving the Port in ballast which have been consigned inwards and outwards, 12 annas per ton upon the English tonnage.

SHIP FREIGHT INWARDS.

IT is hereby notified that, at a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS of the CHAMBER of COMMERCE held on WEDNESDAY, 22nd March, it was unanimously resolved that the Agreement of 1859, and as subsequently revised in 1868, regarding the payment of Inward Freight, be cancelled, and that, in future, payment should be regulated in conformity with the following Resolutions :—

I.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated simply in sterling, shall be made at the rate of 2*s*. per Rupee."

II.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated to be payable in sterling at the current rate of Exchange, shall be made at the current rate of First-class Credit Bills at 6 months' sight on London."

By order of the
Committee of Management,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
15th April, 1871.

GENERAL MEETINGS IN 1870-71.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber on Wednesday, the 2nd November, 1870.

Present:—

Mr. A. D. GRANT, *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Mr. W. G. HALL, *Deputy Chairman*.

Mr. J. Macalister.	Mr. W. Christian.
,, W. Lang.	,, J. G. Smith.
,, J. K. Bythell.	,, F. Sanquet.
,, A. C. Gumpert.	,, G. A. Kittredge.
,, H. D. Dods.	,, H. E. Bright.
,, L. R. W. Forrest.	,, J. Simpson.
,, G. S. Clay.	,, James Windram.
,, T. Wilson.	,, C. E. Benh.
Captain G. F. Henry.	

JAMES TAYLOR, *Secretary*.

The Circular convening the Meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The following Firm was proposed and admitted Members after a ballot:—

Messrs. A. Blascheck & Co., proposed by Mr. James Windram, Manager National Bank of India, seconded by Messrs. Julius Seigfried & Co

The question of the continuances of the new scheme for the measurement of Cotton bales was then brought forward by Mr. Bythell (of Messrs. Gaddum & Co.)

After an expression of opinion on the matter by various Members, the following rules and regulations, proposed by Mr. Bythell, seconded by Captain Henry, Agent P. and O. S. N. Company, were put to the Meeting, as amended, and passed unanimously:—

I. That Callipers shall from time to time be submitted to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and, if found correct, shall be branded with a stamp bearing the name of the Chamber, to indicate the same.

II. That if, from use or otherwise, any Calliper should get out of order and be objected to, the party objecting shall send the Callipers to the Chamber for examination, and should the objection be valid, the Chamber's stamp shall be defaced by the Secretary. If, however, the objection is found to be groundless, the Secretary shall give a note to that effect, and the party objecting shall be bound by his decision.

III. That any Callipers found incorrect, and on which the stamp has been defaced, may be re-stamped after adjustment.

IV. That no measurements shall be held good except such as are taken by Callipers bearing the Chamber's stamp.

V. That public Measurers shall be appointed under the authority of the Chamber of Commerce, and stationed at the different Bunders, to measure pressed bales of Cotton, Wool, Hemp, and other merchandise.

VI. That a Fee, the amount of which shall in no case exceed half an Anna per bale, but which may be regulated by the Chamber from time to time in order to meet the expenses of the necessary establishment, shall be levied on all bales measured by the duly-appointed Measurers.

VII. That no bales be measured without the production of the Custom House Pass bearing the endorsement of the Measurement Fee Clerk to the effect that the Fee has been paid.

VIII. That the Measurers shall measure not less than five bales in every hundred, ascertaining the length of the bale and the greatest width and depth over the lashings, and as near the centre of the bale as possible, but not over the knots.

IX. That the Measurer shall give a Certificate of Measurement, which must accompany the bales to the ship or steamer, and shall furnish the Shipper with a copy thereof. This Certificate, which shall be retained by the ship, shall state—

The date and hour of measurement,
The number of the boat,
The name of the Tindal,
The name of the shipper,
The name of the ship or steamer,
The number of bales,
The marks of the bales,
The measurement.

X. That the Shipper shall, if required, in writing, give the Agent of the ship or steamer notice, in writing, of the time when, and the name of the Bunder on which his bales will be measured, in order that the ship or steamer may be represented.

XI. That the bales shall be alongside the ship or steamer within 36 hours after measurement, weather permitting, or the Certificate shall be void, and the bales shall be re-measured on board, written notice however in such case being given to the Shipper, so that he may have the option of attending.

XII. That the salaries of the Measurers, and all other expenses connected with this scheme of measurement, be paid by the Chamber from the Fee Fund raised under these Rules.

XIII. That a Special Committee of two Members of the Chamber be appointed by the General Committee, into whose charge shall be placed all matters pertaining to the measurement of Cotton, as defined above, including the appointment of the Measurers, the fixing of their salaries, the payment of the same, and the doing of all things necessary for a proper and economical working of the scheme. That in case of any difference between the two Members of the Committee the matter in question shall be decided by the General Committee of the Chamber.

Proposed by Mr. Bythell, of Messrs. Gaddum & Co., seconded by Mr. Bright, of Messrs. Wallace & Co., and carried unanimously,—

"That the fee for measuring pressed bales by the Chamber's Measurers during the coming season, say, till the 30th June next, be fixed at half an anna per bale."

Proposed by Mr. Kittredge, of Messrs. Stearns, Hobart & Co., seconded by Mr. Christian, of Messrs. Peel, Cassels & Co., and carried unanimously,—

"That the Chamber accept the money responsibility of the measurement scheme now adopted, paying the loss of working it during the past five months, and relieving the guarantors of their guarantee."

There being no other business before the Meeting, it was dissolved after a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Chamber of

Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber on Wednesday, the 25th January, 1871.

Present :—

Mr. A. D. GRANT, *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Mr. C. Douglas.	Mr. E. Walker.
,, W. Maitland.	,, T. Wilson.
,, J. Macalister.	,, G. A. Kittredge.
,, W. Lang.	,, H. E. Bright.
,, J. K. Bythell.	,, E. Morriss.
,, W. E. Crum.	,, A. E. Ashley.
,, J. N. Graham.	,, J. Windram.
,, A. C. Gumpert.	Captain G. F. Henry.
,, H. D. Dods.	Mr. Sorabjee Framjee.
,, T. E. Taylor.	,, N. Byramjee Jejeebhoy.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

The Circular convening the Meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The following Firms were proposed, and admitted Members after a ballot :—

Messrs. Alsen, Riebe & Co.

Proposed by Mr. W. Lang (of Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.), seconded by Mr. W. G. Hall (of Messrs. W. Nicol & Co.)

Messrs. Grendon, Tippett & Co.

Proposed by Mr. W. Lang (of Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.), seconded by Mr. H. D. Dods (of Messrs. Hutchinson, Dods & Co.)

The Chairman having stated that the object of the Meeting was the consideration of the Insolvency Bill which had been introduced into the Council of His Excellency the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations—after a few remarks on the character of the Bill—proposed the following motion :—

"That the Bombay Chamber of Commerce approve generally of the leading principles of the new Insolvency Bill now before the Legislative Council of the Governor-General, as set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended thereto."

Mr. Lang seconded the motion.

Proposed as an amendment by Mr. Kittredge, seconded by Mr Bright,—

"That this Chamber does not approve of the proposed Bill No. 20 of 1870."

After some discussion, the amendment was put to the vote, and lost.

The original motion was then put from the Chair, and carried.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting then adjourned until Thursday, the following day, at 3 P.M.

An Adjourned General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber on Thursday, the 26th January, 1871.

Present :—

Mr. A. D. GRANT, *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Mr. J. Macalister.
" C. Douglas.
" W. Lang.
" J. K. Bythell.
" J. N. Graham.
" H. D. Dods.
" R. E. Bickerdike.
" T. E. Taylor.
" E. Walker.
" T. Wilson.
Mr. Hamilton Maxwell.
" G. A. Kittredge.
" H. E. Bright.
" James Simpson.
" Edward Doering.
Captain G. F. Henry.
Mr. Dhunjeebhoy Framjee.
" N. Byramjee Jejeebhoy.
" Morarjee Goculdas.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

The Circular convening the Meeting having been read by the Secretary, the further consideration of the Insolvency Bill was resumed.

Proposed by Mr. W. Lang, and seconded by Mr. H. Maxwell,—

1.—" That it is imperative that simultaneously with the passing of the proposed Insolvency Act, an Act similar to the Act entitled the English Debtors' Act of 1869, providing for the punishment of fraudulent Debtors be passed in India."—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. T. Wilson, and seconded by Mr. C. Douglas,—

2.—" That it is expedient that, if an insolvent who has failed to pay a dividend of 8 annas per rupee, and who is refused his discharge by his creditors, apply to the Court at the end of three years for his discharge, the Judge have power to grant that discharge, provided the Creditors cannot show good cause to the contrary."—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. W. Lang, and seconded by Captain G. F. Henry,—

3.—"That it will be useful in carrying out the provision of this Act, and for other reasons expedient that an Act for the registration of Partnerships such as previously proposed to Government by the Chamber be passed."—*Carried.*

Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. W. Lang,—

"That Clause 3 of Section 17 be so changed as to admit of the voting of persons or firms who will have claims on any consignment sent through them, the accounts of which are not yet closed."—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. Bythell, and seconded by Mr. Kittredge,—

"That in place of Section 19 a section be inserted, making the appointment of Trustee unconditionally subject to the approval of the Court."—*Carried.*

Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. T. Wilson,—

"That Clause No. 6 of Section 26 come under Section 28, and be numbered Clause 6 under that section, and that Clauses 7 and 8 of Section 26 become Clause 6 and 7 of the section respectively."—*Carried.*

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. Wilson,—

"That the first part of Section 31 be altered as follows:—

"The Trustee shall from time to time pay all sums recovered by him under this Act into the General or District Treasury, or into such Bank as the majority of the creditors in number and value at any General Meeting appoint. If the Trustee shall," &c.

Further, that the words from "any Trustee failing to deduct and pay," down to the words "expenses of working this Act," be omitted.—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. H. Maxwell, and seconded by Mr. W. Lang,—

"That in Clause 2 of Section 33 the words 'and not exceeding five hundred rupees' be omitted."—*Carried.*

Proposed by Mr. E. Walker, and seconded by Mr. W. Lang,—

"That in Section 35 for the words 'one year's rent accrued' be substituted the words 'one month's rent accrued."—*Carried.*

Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. H. Maxwell,—

"That in Section 113, after the words 'as the Governor-General

in India may direct,' the following words be inserted :—Provided that at any time after such vesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, or other officials specified in Section 60 of this Act, may, by reason of the disability or absence beyond seas, of the person entitled to the sum so vested, or for any other reason appearing to them sufficient, direct that the said sum shall be repaid out of money provided by the Governor General of India in Council."—*Carried.*

Proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. H. Maxwell,—

"That it be left to the Committee to draw up a Memorial to Government with reference to the proposed Insolvency Act, based on the resolutions that have been passed and the opinions of the Members expressed orally and in writing."—*Carried.*

Mr. Bythell then drew attention to the new Clause being inserted in the Bills of Lading for some Steamers via the Suez Canal, viz.,—Freight payable, ship lost or not. After some discussion, it was agreed that the matter be referred to the Committee of the Chamber.

The whole of the business having been disposed of, the Meeting was closed after a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1871, to consider the following questions :—(1) The expediency of maintaining the local Act IX. of 1863, known as the Cotton Frauds Act ; and (2) Payment of Inward Freight, when stated in sterling without conditions, or "Payable at current rate of Exchange."

Present :—

Mr. W. G. HALL, *Deputy Chairman*, in the Chair.

Mr. C. Douglas.
,, J. K. Bythell.
,, T. Wilson.
,, W. Lang.
,, T. H. Moore.
,, J. Macalister.
,, A. C. Gumpert.
,, J. N. Graham.
Mr. H. D. Dods.
,, W. F. Peel.
,, G. A. Kittredge.
,, D. Watson.
,, Ed. Doering.
Captain G. F Henry.
Mr. N. Byramjee Jejeebhoy.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

The Circular convening the Meeting having been read by the Secretary,

The Chairman, after some remarks on the working of Cotton Frauds Act,

Proposed the following resolution :—

"That in the opinion of the Chamber Act IX. of 1863 (known as the Cotton Frauds Act) having been found inefficient, and practically inoperative for the purpose for which it was enacted, be now repealed; and that the Committee of Management be requested to memorialize the Government of Bombay accordingly."

Mr. Kittredge (Messrs. Stearns, Hobart & Co.) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Lang (Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.), after a short statement on the subject, proposed the following resolutions for the regulation of the payment of Inward Freight in substitution of the general resolution passed by the Chamber in April 1868.

1.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated simply in sterling, shall be made at the rate of 2*s*. per rupee."

2.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated to be payable in sterling at the current rate of exchange, shall be made at the current rate of first-class credit bills at 6 months' sight on London.

Mr. Kittredge seconded the resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Kittredge then introduced the following resolution, of which he has given notice, regarding the Bunder Fees :—

"That the Committee of the Chamber are requested to call the attention of Government to the annoyance caused by the charge of the Bunder Fee on personal effects passing to and from the Bunders, and to request Government to restrict the imposition of the fee to articles of merchandise."

After some discussion on the subject, the resolution was withdrawn.

The Meeting then adjourned, after passing a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber on Wednesday, the 4th October, 1871.

Present:—

Mr. W. G. HALL, *Deputy Chairman.*

Mr. J. K. Bythell.
„ J. Macalister.
„ R. V. Reid.
„ J. Brandenburg.
„ R. B. Beynon.
„ H. G. Tippet.
„ H. Dods.
„ R. B. Sedgwick.
„ Thos. E. Taylor.
Mr. Ed. Comber.
„ Hamilton Maxwell.
„ W. F. Peel.
„ J. P. Negroponte.
„ Thos. Wilson.
„ John Lang.
„ James Douglas.
Captain G. F. Henry.
Mr. Nanabhoy Byramjee.

JAMES TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

The Notice convening the Meeting having been read by the Secretary,

Messrs. Behrend Brothers were, on the motion of Mr. John Lang (Messrs. Stearns, Hobart & Co.), seconded by Mr. James Douglas, (Agent Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China), admitted members of the Chamber, after ballot.

The Chairman moved, and Captain Henry seconded, that the report of the retiring Committee, which had been circulated amongst the Members, should be taken as read, which was agreed to. The Chairman then addressed the Meeting on some of the subjects referred to in the report, as well as on other topics of importance to the mercantile community.

It was then proposed by Mr. R. B. Sedgwick (Messrs. Killick, Nixon & Co.), seconded by Mr. Nanabhoy Byramjee Jejeebhoy (Messrs. King & Co.),—

"That the report of the Committee be received with thanks, and printed for general information, together with the documents therein referred to."—*Carried unanimously.*

Proposed by Mr. R. B. Beynon (Messrs. Blaschock & Co.), and seconded by Mr. J. Brandenburg (Messrs. Bell, Brandenburg & Co.),—

"That the Members of the retiring Committee do now receive the thanks of the Chamber for their attention to its interests during the year of office now expired."—*Carried unanimously.*

Proposed by Mr. R. V. Reid (Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.), and seconded by Mr. J. P. Negroponte (Messrs. Ralli Brothers),—

That the following gentlemen be appointed the Committee for the ensuing year :—

Mr. W. G. Hall (Messrs. W. Nicol & Co.), *Chairman.*

„ J. K. Bythell (Messrs. Gaddum & Co.), *Deputy Chairman.*

Captain G. F. Henry, Supt. P. & O. S. N. Co.,
Mr. J. Macalister, of Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co.,
„ J. A. Forbes, of Messrs. Forbes & Co ,
„ H. Dods, of Messrs. Hutchinson, Dods & Co.,
„ James Douglas, Agent Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China,
} *Members.*

—*Carried unanimously.*

Mr. J. K. Bythell, after explaining to the Meeting at some length the working of the Chamber's scheme for the measurement of Cotton bales and other merchandise, proposed the following resolution :—

" That the Fee for measuring bales of Cotton or bales and cases of other produce be reduced from a half to one-third of an anna (4 pies) per bale or package."

Mr. J. Lang (of Messrs. Stearns, Hobart & Co.) seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

The business being concluded, the Meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee have now the pleasure to report to the Members of the Chamber on the principal topics which have engaged their attention during the official year just closed.

BILL TO AMEND THE LAW OF INSOLVENCY.

Towards the close of last year, the Chamber was invited by the Government of India, through the Local Government, to express its views on the "Bill to Amend the Law of Insolvency," which had been introduced into the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy for making Laws and Regulations, in the month of September. Copies of the Bill were circulated to Members, and their opinions invited, in view of the substance of these being embodied in the form of resolutions to be submitted at a General Meeting of the Chamber. A Special General Meeting was accordingly held on Wednesday, the 25th January last, and at this meeting, and the adjournment of the same held the day following, the Bill was considered and the resolutions thereon, which will be found in the Appendices to this report adopted, and in due course laid before Government. In handing up these resolutions, your Committee pointed out that there was a considerable minority of the Members of the Chamber entirely opposed to the Bill, and that even the majority who were in favour of it, were only so on the condition set forth in the second general resolution, to the effect that an Act similar to the Act entitled the English Debtors' Act of 1869, providing for the punishment of fraudulent debtors, be also passed in India.

No action has been taken in the matter of this Bill by the Legislative Council of His Excellency the Viceroy since the views of the Chamber were communicated to Government, but it is generally understood that it will come on for further consideration when the Council meets in Calcutta next month.

The unsatisfactory state of the law of bankruptcy in other parts of the East has engaged the attention of several of the Chambers of Commerce. Your Committee have had communications on the subject from the Chambers at Mauritius and at Batavia, and have had pleasure in supplying them with the information they have asked for in reference to the existing law of solvency in this country. *(Appendix A.)*

THE EXECUTION OF HIGH COURT DECREES AGAINST ABSCONDING DEBTORS IN NATIVE STATES.

A subject of much importance to the Mercantile community, on which the Chamber deemed it necessary to address Government in 1866, was again in a pointed manner brought to the notice of your Committee in November last, viz., the extreme difficulty (in many cases amounting to an impossibility) of obtaining execution of decrees of the High Court of Bombay against debtors who have absconded to, or have property in, Native States.

The question was considered by the Government of India when, in January 1867, instructions were given to all Governments, Administrations, Departments, and Agencies, to the effect that facilities should be given for the execution of the decrees of Civil tribunals obtained by British subjects in our own territory by enlisting the influence of the several Political authorities with the Princes and Chiefs of Native

States to which the debtor had absconded or in which he was possessed of property. Owing, however, to objections entertained by various Political Officers, a resolution, under date 27th August 1868, was passed, which cancelled the resolution of the 31st January 1867, and required that all officers should henceforth be guided by the principles laid down in a resolution dated 10th April 1867, which considerably modified the resolution of January preceding.

It was in reference to the serious difficulty caused to the creditors of absconding debtors by the rescinding of the resolution of the 31st January 1867 that your Committee considered it necessary to address Government on the subject. They pointed out to Government that, in their opinion, sufficient force had hardly been given to the commercial objections to the course laid down for the guidance of Political Officers in the resolution of the Government of India, dated August 1868.

In reference to a statement in the Government explanation of the resolution, to the effect that the abstaining of a political representative from putting pressure on, or using his influence with, the Chief, or Durbar, in order to the execution of a decree obtained in British territory, ought not to inflict any real hardship on claimants who have successfully resorted to our Courts for redress, because "in many cases where large sums of money are claimed from debtors resident in British territory, such persons, if they abscond into Native States, have either property or partners behind them in the said British territory against whom execution may at once be taken out;"—it was pointed out that, so far was this from being an exact representation, that as regards Bombay at all events, the very opposite was nearer the truth, and that the experience of the European section of the mercantile community in Bombay was that absconding debtors leave neither property nor partners behind them to satisfy any decree obtained against them; and that if Political Agents were not to be permitted to interfere on behalf

of British creditors in such cases, justice would be virtually denied to them. Your Committee asked for a re-consideration of the Resolution of the Government of India, dated August 1868, but they regret to say no answer has yet been communicated to the Chamber.

In their representation to Government on the subject in question, your Committee took occasion to draw attention to the unsatisfactory state of the law with regard to native partnerships, and to express regret that though the important subject of a registration of partnerships had been brought under the notice of Government by the Chamber more than four years ago, in view to obtaining a legislative enactment for a compulsory registration of the same, nothing had yet been done, and no reason given why it should not be done, other than that Government saw difficulties in the way.

Your Committee have observed with satisfaction that a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons in the last Session of Parliament to provide for a general registration of partnerships in England: the Bill was brought in at too late a date to allow of its passing, but the proposal was favourably entertained, and there can be no doubt the question will again be brought forward next year with every prospect of a favourable result. *(Appendix B.)*

DELAYS IN H. M.'s HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Various representations were made to the Chamber a few months back complaining of the delays in the despatch of business in H. M.'s High Court of Judicature, and your Committee considered it necessary to address Government on a matter so seriously affecting, not mercantile interests only, but also those of the public generally.

The delays complained of were classed under three heads :—First, and chiefly, delay on the part of the Court in the delivery of its judgments in cases where judgment was reserved ; second, delay in the despatch of business in the Prothonotary's Office ; and third, the time taken up in the taxation of costs which was represented as being often so long as to cause loss to suitors by permitting a judgment-debtor to get in and realize property, and then abscond with it before the decree against him could be executed.

It was represented to your Committee that much of the delay complained of was attributable to the paucity of Judges and the increase of business. On these points, however, your Committee could offer no opinion; all they did or could do was to draw the attention of Government to the evil complained of, and to request that a remedy might be provided. Government in reply stated that copies of the letter from the Chamber had been sent to the Government of India and Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, and that the subject would be duly considered. *(Appendix C.)*

HIGH TARIFF OF RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PIECE GOODS AND YARNS BY THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

This question engaged the special attention of the Chamber last year, and it was unfortunately soon made apparent that the partial reduction of rates which took place in June 1870 was altogether insufficient to enable Bombay merchants to compete for a share of the trade of Northern India on anything like fair terms with their brethren in Bengal. Your Committee accordingly addressed the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway Company in January last, submitting a comparative statement of the carriage charges on the G. I. P. and E. I. Railways, and calling his attention to the fact that from this statement it would be seen that, notwithstanding the

reduction that had been made, the charges for the conveyance of goods by the G. I. P. Railway were still more than three times higher than those by the East Indian line.

The correspondence which then took place between the Agent of the Railway and your Committee was afterwards printed and circulated for the information of Members. It was considered so unsatisfactory, that no alternative was left to your Committee but to lay the correspondence before the Government of Bombay, the Board of Directors at Home, Mr. Danvers, the Government Director of Indian Railway Companies, and the Secretary of State for India, with a request that steps might be taken to secure the reduction in the rates of carriage, which the interests of the trade of Bombay so imperatively demanded, but which the Railway authorities here had hitherto demurred to concede.

Your Committee have now the satisfaction to state that the representations that were made, and the pressure that was brought to bear on the Board of Directors, by the authorities here and in England, have had the desired effect :— the Secretary of State for India has informed your Committee "that the Directors have recently directed that such reductions be made in the rates in question as, whilst fully, protecting the Company's interests, will, they hope, meet the reasonable expectations of the Bombay merchants." Your Committee have as yet received no further official information regarding the character of the intended reductions, they have reason to believe they will come into operation shortly, and they trust they may prove to be sufficiently liberal to give satisfaction to the public. *(Appendix D.)*

THE COTTON FRAUDS ACT OF 1863.

It will be in the recollection of Members that in the report submitted at the last Annual Meeting held on 6th October 1870, the Committee then retiring, stated they

were of opinion that "the Cotton Frauds Department was of little practical use," and that "they were unable to point to any benefit which it conferred on the Cotton trade of Bombay, though it cost that trade annually more than two lakhs of rupees;" and there was otherwise a strong feeling existing at the time your Committee came into office that the Chamber should take steps to move Government for the abolition of the Act. A memorandum was accordingly prepared by your Committee giving a review of the leading facts in the Cotton trade for the last ten years in reference to the subject of adulteration, with a summary of the arguments usually put forward for and against the Act,—and circulated amongst the Members with a request that they would favour your Committee with their opinions as to their being favourable or otherwise to the continuance of the same. Only a portion of the Members expressed their views, in writing, on the subject, but all who did so were unanimous in their opinion as to the uselessness of the Act, and counselled its abolition.

A Special General Meeting of the Chamber was afterwards held on the 22nd March to consider, amongst other business, "the expediency of maintaining the local Act IX. of 1863, known as the Cotton Frauds Act," when the following Resolution was passed unanimously:—"That, in the opinion of the Chamber, the Bombay Act IX. of 1863, known as the Cotton Frauds Act, having been found inefficient and practically inoperative for the purpose for which it was enacted, should be repealed, and that the Committee of Management be requested to memorialize the Government of Bombay to this effect."

In conformity with this Resolution your Committee prepared a Memorial, in which were set forth the various reasons which induced the Chamber to move for the abolition of the Act, and the same was laid before His Excellency in Council by letter addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government,

under date 31st March. Printed copies of the Memorial were also circulated to the Members, and published in the newspapers for general information.

Your Committee regret to state that though they have addressed Government twice on the subject since the transmission of the Memorial, no answer to it has yet been received; the only information they have is to the effect that the question is still under the consideration of Government. It is for the Chamber now to consider what further steps should be taken in a matter of so much importance to the cotton trade of this side of India. *(Appendix E.)*

IMPROVEMENT OF COTTON CULTIVATION.

During the past year a variety of Cotton samples, from experiments made in various parts of the Presidency, were submitted to your Committee for report, but there was nothing of interest about any of these experiments requiring special notice. Excellent samples of cotton grown from Hinginghat seed on the Government Model Farm in Khandeish were submitted by the Superintendent, Mr. Fretwell, the chief point of interest in connection with which was that the sample from the second season's crop was superior to the first, and showed a bright creamy-coloured cotton having fully the silky gloss peculiar to the genuine Hinginghat. Unfortunately samples produced on Model Farms, and treated like garden cultivation, are no true index as to what the same description of cotton may turn out to be, when it is planted on a large scale and subjected to the ordinary methods of field culture practised by the ryots. In reference to the samples from Khandeish, it was stated that, in the event of the report on that of the second season's crop proving favourable, "a great saving of expense in cultivation may be effected wherever the land is clean enough to allow the plants to be left in after the first crop." As

there was no question about the superiority of the cotton from the second season's crop, and as the Superintendent informed your Committee that he intended following up the experiment "by extensive perennial cultivation of this variety of cotton," the progress of such an experiment with so valuable a variety as that of Hingughat will be watched with interest. *(Appendix F.)*

MOVEMENT OF COTTON FROM DISTRICTS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES TO MIRZAPOOR AND CALCUTTA.

The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces called the attention of the Chamber in February last to what appeared to him a very unusual course of trade, namely, the movement from Nursingpoor and other districts in the Nerbudda Valley on the G. I. P. line of Railway of cotton to Mirzapoor *en route* to Calcutta, a greater distance than from those districts to Bombay. Your Committee called the attention of the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway to the matter, and he replied that he had noticed the same thing, and accounted for it by the fact that Mirzapoor had long been the mart to which the produce from Central India had found its way, and that such a course of trade was not likely to be altered very suddenly. The opening of the Railway to Jubbulpore has already had the effect of diverting a considerable portion of the produce grown in the north-eastern districts of the Central Provinces to Bombay, that formerly found its way to Mirzapoor; but still your Committee considered that the reply received from the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway gave a satisfactory explanation of what had been observed by the Chief Commissioner, and they are farther of opinion that the short white stapled cotton grown in those districts of the Central Provinces and the north-west of India, which is

suitable for, and principally exported to, China, will continue to find its way to Calcutta, as the chief port for the export of Indian cotton to China. *(Appendix G.)*

MEASUREMENT OF PATENT PRESSED BALES OF COTTON AND OTHER PRODUCE.

The scheme for the measurement of patent pressed bales of cotton and other produce, adopted experimentally by the Chamber at a Special General Meeting held in May 1870, and continued through the monsoon of that year, at the expense of the Chamber, under the guarantee of a considerable majority of the Members, was reviewed and specially considered at a General Meeting called for this purpose on the 2nd November last. At this Meeting it was unanimously resolved that the scheme which had existed as an experiment since May preceding be now adopted as the rule or custom of the Port in this matter. A new set of Rules and Regulations were adopted in supersession of those formerly in use, all liability for the cost of the scheme was assumed by the Chamber as a body, the Measurement Fee for the ensuing season was fixed at half an anna per bale, and a Sub-Committee of two members of the Chamber, selected by the General Committee, was appointed to take charge of all matters connected with the practical working of the scheme. Nearly a year has now elapsed since the scheme, as regulated by the proceedings at the General Meeting, came into operation, and your Committee have much satisfaction in congratulating the Members on the complete success which has attended it, a success which your Committee feel has been largely owing to the careful manner in which the working of the scheme has been supervised by the Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. Bythell and Mr. Kittredge, and since the beginning of June, on the departure of Mr. Kittredge to England, by Mr. John Lang. *(Appendix H.)*

SAMPLES OF PRODUCE.

Few samples of produce were submitted for report during the past year. A box, containing a variety of samples of seed, grain, fibre, and cotton, the produce of the Government Farm at Sheagaum, was forwarded to the Chamber by the Deputy Commissioner, Akola District, and the contents were examined with much interest. On the samples of seed and grain, your Committee had no special remarks to make; they were similar to the produce of like character commonly met with in the Bombay Bazaar, and in some cases appeared rather inferior in quality. The fibre samples consisted of fibre extracted from the stems of the cotton plant, and ambaree, described as "a low quality of Jute." The fibre from the cotton plant was found to be poor and of no commercial value here; the ambaree sample, though a much better description of fibre, was still considered inferior to the "sun" fibre, grown in the Southern Concan and on the Malabar Coast, with which Bombay is well supplied.

Of the cotton samples produced on the Sheagaum Government Farm, one of the Hinginghat description was found to be unusually superior, better than any Hinginghat your Committee had seen offered for sale. It was pointed out, however, to the Deputy Commissioner, that samples from experiments on such a small scale, carried out with unusual care and attention, were of little practical use, unless similar results could be obtained on a large scale under the ordinary conditions of culture. *(Appendix I.)*

REVISION OF TARIFF VALUATIONS.

The question of the expediency of a revision of the present tariff valuation for Grey Goods, Yarns, and other articles, was brought under the notice of your Committee in the early part of the year. On a careful consideration

of the whole subject, however, the present did not seem to them a very suitable time for raising the question with Government. The circumstances of the past twelve months were somewhat analogous to the state of matters in the latter part of the year 1867, when, owing to the rapid fall in the price of cotton at that time, and the steady fall in the price of Grey Goods which followed thereon, the valuations for duty by Act XVII. of 1867, passed in March that year, had in six months' time become altogether out of proportion to the market rates that were then ruling, and the matter was accordingly made the subject of a representation to Government by the Chamber. While a Committee appointed to consider the subject by the Government of India was still sitting, there was again a turn in the price of cotton, and prices began to rise as steadily in 1868 as they had fallen in 1867; the difference between the market and tariff values of goods became so slight, that it was considered a modification amid such uncertainty as to the course of the cotton market was deemed undesirable, and the further consideration of the question was postponed. In 1869 a revision of tariff values took place, when a considerable reduction was made; and it does not appear to your Committee expedient that this arrangement should in present circumstances be disturbed.

OBJECTIONABLE CLAUSES INTRODUCED IN STEAMER BILLS OF LADING.

The subject of the introduction of clauses into Bills of Lading, for shipments by Steamers viâ the Suez Canal and otherwise, exempting owners from liability under particular circumstances stated, has occupied the attention of your Committee, though they regret they have not seen their way to propose any special course of action. The question fortunately has now excited the attention it demands in London,

the head-quarters, so to speak, of all the various interests concerned, and where only a satisfactory solution of the difficulties surrounding the question can be looked for.

The late Chairman of the Chamber, Mr. A. D. Grant, had an interview on his return to England with the Secretary to the Association in London for the Protection of Commercial Interests, &c., and he found that the subject was under the consideration of Merchants and Underwriters, both in England and in America. "The course of things," Mr. Grant wrote to your Committee, "has been this:—Whenever a ship-owner is caught by any mischance and made liable, a clause exempting him from such liability in future is immediately inserted in Bills of Lading, and the owners have protected themselves at almost every point wherein there was formerly a liability under the Common Law. The last clause which has been inserted is the crowning one, and runs thus—'Nor for any damage whatever which is capable of being covered by Insurance,' as any risk whatever is insurable *at some rate*, it is difficult to see what liability remains on the owner of the ship." It will be remembered that one of the phrases specially objected to—"ship lost or not,"—was in the *John Dryden's* Bills of Lading, and Mr. Grant mentioned in his letter that "the case will be tried, whether consignees are liable to pay freight in the circumstances where no cargo has been delivered." Members will, no doubt, recollect that at a Meeting held in London some two months ago, a Committee of Ship-owners, Merchants, and Underwriters, was appointed to deal with the whole question. The settlement of a common form of Bill of Lading has been mentioned as likely to prove the best practical solution of the difficulty, and this suggestion is the remedy that occurred to your Committee when the subject was first considered, but the form itself can only be settled, after a full consideration of the points affecting all the interests concerned, and such consideration the subject will doubtless receive from the Committee now sitting in London. *(Appendix J.)*

PREPARATION OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.

The disclosures made last year in reference to the signing of Bills of Lading before the shipment of goods caused suggestions of various kinds to be made to the Chamber, with a view to putting a stop to a practice so reprehensible, and restoring confidence in documents which hitherto were considered almost equivalent to cash.

The matter was carefully considered by your Committee, and a Memorandum on the preparation of Shipping Documents was printed and circulated amongst the Members, and published also in the newspapers, in the hope that the suggestions therein made, if supported by the Mercantile community generally, might have the effect of placing the trade of this City on a sound basis as regarded the important points that were therein considered. *(Appendix K.)*

SEPARATE OFFICE FOR THE BRITISH INDIAN SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Government submitted for the opinion of the Chamber the question whether it would be "for the public advantage that the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company should be permitted to have an Establishment and Office for the receipt and delivery of Messages, distinct from, and independent of, the Government Establishment." In answer to the question submitted, written replies were sent in by 33 Members, of these, 22 expressed decided opinions in favour of a separate Office and Establishment; while 11 expressed opinions either in favour of the existing arrangement or no decided views for or against. It appeared, however, from a subsequent communication received from Government, that a mistake had been made in the way in which the question was first put before the Chamber, certain expla-

tations were given on the subject, and a further expression of opinion on the part of Members was asked for. Before submitting to Members this further communication, your Committee asked for an explanation on points contained in the letter which did not appear to them to be correctly stated, but no reply having been received from the Department, the matter dropped. Members would no doubt have observed that the question of a separate Office and Establishment for the Indian Submarine Telegraph Company was a good deal discussed before the Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to consider the subject of Indian Finance, in the last Session of Parliament, as well as other points relating to telegraph arrangements, which it may be necessary for the Chamber to consider hereafter.

In reference to the subject of telegraphs, your Committee have pleasure in stating that no complaints of any sort regarding irregularities in the working of the Indian Telegraph during the past year have been made to the Chamber; all the lines appear at present to be working well, and to be in a more satisfactory condition than at any previous period. *(Appendix L.)*

RULES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF SURVEYORS, UNDER SECTION VIII. OF ACT II. OF 1864, FOR THE SURVEY OF STEAM VESSELS.

A Draft of Rules and Regulations for the guidance of Surveyors, proposed to be promulgated under Section 8 of Act II. of 1864, was forwarded by Government to the Chamber in May last, and its opinion invited thereon. The matter was considered by your Committee, and in reply a Memorandum was submitted to Government calling attention to various points which had been pressed on the notice of your Committee as of great importance, and to which, it was

pointed out, the attention of Surveyors should be carefully directed, as otherwise the Draft Rules, though simple and unobjectionable so far as they went, would be incomplete. *(Appendix M.)*

DISALLOWANCE OF DRAWBACK ON ARTICLES DIFFICULT OF IDENTIFICATION.

The opinion of the Chamber was requested by Government on the subject of the disallowance of drawback on articles difficult of identification, and in reference to a Notification by the Commissioner of Customs, dated June 1870, by which it was proclaimed that imported goods difficult of identification would not be admitted to drawback on re-exportation unless their identity be clearly established, and that such goods should be warehoused on arrival, in the event of a probability of their being re-exported.

In reference to the question submitted, your Committee pointed out that the entrepôt trade of Bombay was of mor importance than could be measured by the mere value of the imports, considerable as that is, and that a change of a hard-and-fast character, like the Notification of 30th June 1870, could not fail to have an injurious effect on it. Your Committee were of opinion that produce which could be identified as foreign, on which duty of course had been paid, as little difficulty as possible should be placed in the way of granting drawbacks, and that a recognition of this principle carefully applied would be sufficient to check attempts to defraud the revenue without checking trade. It was further pointed out that the existing bonded warehouses possessed by Government would not meet the difficulty, for two reasons:— First, they are too distant from the Native Town, where the trade in the produce under consideration was principally carried on; and second, there is not sufficient space in the

existing warehouses for the accommodation of the large numbers usually employed in preparing Gums and other produce intended for re-export.

Your Committee also suggested that a portion of the Elphinstone Landed Estate, lately acquired by Government, could hardly be put to a better use than to erect thereon warehouses suited for the garbling, storing, and re-export of the produce which, in reference to the drawback claimed, gives trouble to the Customs from the difficulty as to identification.

Your Committee have pleasure in informing the Members of the Chamber that Government has recently passed a Resolution, requesting the Commissioner of Customs to withdraw the Notification above referred to, and has taken into consideration the remarks made by the Chamber as to the advisability of providing warehouse accommodation on the Elphinstone property for garbling and storing produce likely to be re-exported. *(Appendix N.)*

SHIP FREIGHT INWARDS.

It having been considered by Merchants generally that the agreement which was come to in 1858, regarding the payment of Inward Freight, was no longer suitable in the altered conditions of trade in Bombay. The question was brought forward for re-consideration at a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber, held on the 22nd March last, when it was unanimously resolved that the agreement of 1858, and as subsequently revised in 1868, be cancelled, and that in future payment should be regulated in conformity with the following Resolutions :—

I.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated simply in sterling, shall be made at the rate of 2s. per rupee."

II.—"That the payment of Inward Freight, when stated to be payable in sterling, at the current rate of Exchange, shall be made at the current rate of First-class Credit Bills at 6 months' sight on London."

These Resolutions were in due course communicated to Lloyd's, to Liverpool, and to the Chambers of Commerce generally, and published also in "Lloyd's list."

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Director-General of the Post Office in India, Mr. Monteath, explained to the Chamber, in October last, the character of the changes then expected to take place from 1st November as to the day and hour for the despatch of the Overland Mail from Bombay. In reference to these arrangements it was pointed out by your Committee, that Monday, at 5 P.M., in the fair season, would be a very inconvenient day for the mercantile community of Bombay, and stated they would be glad to be informed whether this part of the arrangements could be altered.

Mr. Monteath in reply very courteously explained in detail the reasons which weighed with him in making the proposal to the London Post Office regarding the day of departure of the Mail Steamer from Bombay, which your Committee said would be inconvenient. The difficulties pointed out in the way of proposing any other arrangement that would be more convenient to Bombay satisfied your Committee that the Director-General had no alternative but to carry out the arrangements proposed, and all that could be done was to ask him, in the event of any modifications of the plan being made hereafter, to do what he could to make such changes in our favour as circumstances might permit. Your Committee were subsequently informed by

the Director-General that there was no probability of the intended re-arrangement of the Mail Service coming into effect until the Mont Cenis tunnel became available for the conveyance of Mails. An intended acceleration of the despatch of the Mail in the monsoon months by a reduction in the allowance of time was not effected, owing to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General having overlooked the request of the Director-General in India in reference to this point, when the former arranged with the P. & O. Company, the Time Table for 1871. *(Appendix O.)*

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF POST CARDS.

The Director-General of the Post Office in India requested the opinion of your Committee on the following points in reference to a proposed introduction of Post Cards into this country, viz. :—First, would the introduction of correspondence cards in India be of any material use to the public if unaccompanied by a reduction of the postage rate ; second, would it be advisable to raise the Indian minimum rate for ordinary letters from 6 to 8 Pies (equivalent of a Penny), and to introduce a new 4 Pie rate for correspondence cards only, the limits of weight for ordinary letters being as follows :—

8 Pie rate ..... ½ tola.
1 Anna rate..... 1 „

and so on as at present.

In reply, your Committee stated that in reference to the first question they were of opinion that the introduction of correspondence cards would be of no great use to the mercantile or the European portion of the community generally, and that it would not be advisable to do so without a reduction of the postage rate. In regard to the second question, your Committee were of opinion that it would not be expedient to raise the minimum rate for ordinary letters

from 6 to 8 pies, particularly in reference to the introduction of a scheme which, in their opinion, was not well suited to the circumstances of this country. *(Appendix P.)*

PORT TRUST AND WHARFAGE FEE QUESTION.

Act V. of 1870, empowering Government to levy fees at all Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing Places, &c., came into operation on the 1st March last. Considerable dissatisfaction was felt by the public generally, at fees being levied on personal effects, and on every description of package in the hands of a Passenger, and on which no description of charge had ever been levied before; and the additional burdens imposed on trade by the levying of fees on Bunders and Wharves, where none had been levied before, caused dissatisfaction in the mercantile community, and your Committee were pressed to make representations on the subject to Government.

Your Committee delayed doing so in the hope of receiving from Government some information on the subject of a proposed Port Trust, which it was understood had been under consideration for a year at least, but as no such communication was made, your Committee addressed Government more than two months ago, asking for such information on the subject as His Excellency in Council might think fit to communicate, and urging the desirability of avoiding further delay in the settlement of a question of so much importance to the trade of Bombay.

In reply, your Committee were informed "that Government had under its careful consideration the future arrangements regarding the Harbour and Foreshore of Bombay, and had been for some time in communication with the Govern-

ment of India on the subject;" it was added, "that the result would be made known to the Chamber as soon as the Government was in a position to do so." *(Appendix Q.)*

BANK HOLIDAYS.

As inconvenience was felt, and some dissatisfaction expressed, at the course formerly followed by the Banks in the matter of occasional extra holidays being taken without consulting the views of the Merchants on the subject, the representatives of the Banks took the matter into consideration, and appointed a Committee of three of their number to confer with the Committee of the Chamber from time to time as the usual holidays drew near, and so settle their dates and duration in concert with the Chamber, whose wishes they were desirous of consulting.

The views expressed by the Bankers entirely met the wishes of your Committee, and since January last the holidays have been arranged between the two Committees accordingly. *(Appendix R.)*

STATISTICS OF COTTON AND OTHER GOODS TRAFFIC.

The statistics of the cotton receipts at Bombay, supplied in the Weekly Trade Return published by the Chamber, is about as complete as circumstances permit. The only drawback to the usefulness of this publication of receipts is the backward state of the Returns procured from the G. I. P. Railway, which are usually from ten to fourteen days behind the date of the publication of the Weeky Trade Return, but there appear to be difficulties in the way of giving them with accuracy to a later date than we are doing at present. The information supplied by Mr. Rivett-Carnac regarding the quantity of land under cotton cultivation,

and the fortnightly Returns he supplies to the Chamber throughout the season of the export of cotton from the Berars and Central Provinces, are found to be of great service to all engaged in the cotton trade.

Early in the present year your Committee requested the authorities of the G. I. P. Railway to supply certain Returns regarding the movement of the traffic in Piece Goods, Yarns, Metals, &c., on the G. I. P. line of Railway, in order that the same might be published for the information of all interested in the trade of Bombay. Your Committee regret to inform the Members that though more than six months have elapsed since the matter was brought before the G. I. P. Railway authorities, and soon afterwards before the Government of Bombay, nothing has yet been settled; but your Committee hope the matter may now soon be disposed of, and the returns asked for supplied, without further delay. The objection made by the Railway authorities is that the information asked for by the Chamber would put them to some expense to prepare, but this can hardly be considered a very satisfactory reason, when the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways supply similar, and, indeed, more detailed information than we have asked for, to the Bengal Chamber, cheerfully, and without making the slightest difficulty about it.

Mr. Rivett-Carnac recently submitted to your Committee a very elaborate Memorandum on "The Interchange of Traffic between the G. I. P. Railway and the Railways in the Bengal Presidency, from the 1st May 1870 to 30th June 1871." It was brought to their notice at a date so recent that there has not been time to examine and report upon it, but as copies will be in the hands of Members shortly, they will have ample opportunity of examining the same, and making such suggestions as may appear expedient, in order that Mr. Carnac may be able to make future reports as complete and valuable as he desires they should be, to all

interested in the trade of this country. The report submitted contains three interesting maps, showing the chief lines of railway, and the political divisions in Eastern and Western India; the distances of railway lines in Eastern and Western India; and the interchange of traffic on the various lines for the year ending 30th June last. *(Appendix S.)*

RAILWAY PROGRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Chamber, the South-Eastern line of the G. I. P. Railway has been opened to Raichore, thus connecting Bombay and Madras by a continuous line of railway, with the exception of the bridge across the Kistna, which is in progress, but not likely to be finished for some time, though traffic along the whole line can now be carried on. A branch line from Waddy, south of Koolburga, to Hyderabad, Deccan, the Nizam's State line, has been sanctioned, and the works commenced; this line will open up a district of the Deccan in the Nizam's territory with which Bombay hitherto has had very little trading connection. Another State line in the Central Provinces that will connect the Hinginghat cotton districts and the Chanda coal district with the G. I. P. Railway, is also about to be commenced. The Indus Valley line, which will ultimately connect Kurrachee with Mooltan, has been sanctioned, and the branch from Mooltan to Sukkur is about to be commenced, starting from Mooltan. Certain portions of the Rajpootna lines have been sanctioned, and the railway to connect Agra with Jeypore and Ajmere is about to be commenced. Your Committee, however, regret to state that nothing seems to have been settled regarding the line of railway so much required to connect Bombay with Delhi and Agra, through Rajpootana, from some point on the B. B. and

C. I. line. The importance of such a line has been repeatedly pressed on the attention of Government by the Chamber; the Government of India had all but settled on such a line four years ago, when new propósals were put forward, what was supposed to have been settled was set aside, and as usual, all thrown back to begin again, *ab initio*.

Mr. Danvers in his interesting report on Indian Railways for the year 1870-71, referring to the recent connection of Bombay and Madras by the completion of the G. I. P. Railway to Raichore, and the previously completed line to Jabalpur, connecting Bombay with Calcutta, says—"Thus may the system of trunk lines for India, originally laid down by Lord Dalhousie, be regarded as completed." Your Committee are unable to concur in this view. Lord Dalhousie himself said, in his celebrated minute, that "he attached no great value to the connection by railway of the several capitals and seats of Government considered merely as such:" but it appeared to him "to be of the first importance to connect the several Presidencies by a line of rail, each with the other, and to unite Hindustan, and the districts to the north-west, with the western ports in the Peninsula."

It is this union with Hindustan and the North-west that Bombay still so greatly desiderates. I "consider," said Lord Dalhousie in the minute referred to, "that a line of railway connecting Upper India with the western ports and with the Presidency of Bombay, would be of great political and commercial value, and I beg leave strongly to advocate its construction;" and again—"I repeat, therefore, that I advise the construction of a line from Surat by Baroda and Neemuch to Agra, as being calculated to afford the greatest amount of general advantage"—your Committee are of opinion that not till the line, so impressively referred to in the words just quoted, is carried out, can Lord Dalhousie's "system of trunk lines for India" be said to be complete.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Papers on various subjects of interest in connection with the trade of India and the East, which it is unnecessary to refer to in detail, will be found in the appendices to this report.

The references that have been made to your Committee during the past official year, on questions connected with the custom of trade, and otherwise affecting the mercantile and shipping interests of the port, were duly considered and disposed of in the usual manner.

The income for the past year has been about equal to the expenditure; the balance in favour of the Chamber, in account with the New Bank of Bombay, Limited, on the 5th September, was Rs. 10,363-0-4.

In conclusion, your Committee have now to return their thanks to the Members for their ready attention and support on all matters on which they had occasion to consult them; and to express their acknowledgments to Government for the courtesy and consideration with which their representations have been received. *(Appendix T.)*

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay,
27th September 1871.

APPENDIX A.

BILL TO AMEND THE LAW OF INSOLVENCY.

No. 189 of 1870.—Legislative Department.

Bombay Castle, 23rd November, 1870.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit the accompanying copy of the "Bill to amend the Law of Insolvency,"* introduced into the Council of His Excellency the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, and to request that you will have the goodness to forward, for submission to the Government of India, any remarks which the Chamber of Commerce may have to make on the provisions of the Bill.

I have, &c.,
JOHN JARDINE,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 218 of 1870.

Legislative Department,
Bombay Castle, 24th December, 1870.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—I am directed to draw your attention to my letter No. 189, dated the 23rd ultimo, and to request that you will have the goodness to forward as early as possible any remarks

* Not printed [Secy. Bom. C. C.]

which the Chamber of Commerce may have to make on the provisions of the "Bill to amend the Law of Insolvency."

I have, &c.,

JOHN JARDINE,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
30th December, 1870.

J. JARDINE, ESQ.,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government,
Legislative Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 218 of 1870, dated 24th instant, in reference to which, and your previous letter No. 189 of 23rd November, handing copy of the Insolvency Bill now before the Council of His Excellency the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations, I am directed to state that the Bill in question is at present under the consideration of the Members of the Chamber, and that their views thereon shall be communicated to His Excellency in Council for transmission to the Government of India on as early a day next month as may be found practicable.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 26 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
30th January, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Judicial and Legislative Departments, Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 30th ultimo, I have now the honour, by direction of the Committee of Management, to state, for the information of His Excellency in Council, that at a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce held on Wednesday the 25th instant, and at an adjournment of the same held the day following, when the proposed Insolvency Bill was under consideration, the Resolutions thereon hereto annexed were adopted by a majority of the Members present.

In handing up these Resolutions, I am to point out that there is a considerable minority of the Members of the Chamber entirely opposed to the principle of the Bill, and that even the majority who are in favour of it are so only on the condition set forth in the second general Resolution, to the effect that an Act similar to the Act entitled the English Debtors' Act of 1869, providing for the punishment of fraudulent debtors, be passed in India.

The object of the third Resolution is to prevent the possibility of an important principle of the Bill being strained by a harsh creditor to keep an honest debtor from his discharge after the three years allowed for paying an eight-anna dividend had expired. The case is, no doubt, of an exceptional character, but as injustice is possible under the Bill, it seems right that this provision should be made.

In reference to the fourth general Resolution, the Committee of Management desire again to draw attention to the expediency of an enactment for the registration of partnerships. The necessity for an Act of this character has been urged on Government by the Chamber on former occasions, and the Members are strongly of opinion that such an Act would be found to be of great use in carrying out the provisions of the new Insolvency Bill when it becomes law.

The other Resolutions referring to important points in the details of the Bill are respectfully commended to the consideration of the Government of India, for the brief

reasons appended to them, and I am now to request His Excellency in Council will cause this letter, with the Resolutions annexed, to be transmitted to the Government of India without delay.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
30*th January*, 1871.

Resolutions on the Insolvency Bill now before the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy for making Laws and Regulations, passed at the General Meetings of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce held on 25th and 26th January, 1871.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

1*st Resolution.*—"That the Bombay Chamber of Commerce approves generally of the leading principles of the new Insolvency Bill now before the Legislative Council of the Governor-General, as set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended thereto."

2*nd Resolution.*—"That it is imperative that, simultaneously with the passing of the proposed Insolvency Act, an Act similar to the Act entitled the English Debtors' Act of 1869, providing for the punishment of fraudulent debtors, be passed in India."

3*rd Resolution.*—"That it is expedient that if an insolvent who has failed to pay a dividend of 8 annas per rupee, and who is refused his discharge by his creditors, apply to the Court at the end of three years for his discharge, the Judge have power to grant that discharge, provided the creditors cannot show good cause to the contrary."

4*th Resolution.*—"That it will be useful in carrying out the provisions of this Act, and for other reasons expedient, that an Act for the Registration of Partnerships, such as previously proposed to Government by the Chamber, be passed."

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING DETAILS OF THE BILL.

"That Clause 3 of Section 17 be so changed as to admit of the voting of persons or firms who will have claims on any consignments sent through them, the accounts of which are not yet closed."

"That in place of Section 19 a section be inserted, making the appointment of Trustee unconditionally subject to the approval of the Court."

Section 26.—The Chamber considers that Clause 6 of Section 26 gives powers to the Trustee, which should be exercised only under the supervision of the Committee of Inspection. The following is proposed as an amendment of the Clause as it stands :—

"*Resolution.*—That Clause No. 6 of Section 26 come under Section 28, and be numbered Clause 6 under that section, and that Clauses 7 and 8 of Section 26 become Clauses 6 and 7 of the section respectively"

Section 31, providing for the introduction of a new tax on insolvent estates of 3 per cent., is objectionable. The Chamber considers that the administration of justice should be a charge on the general revenue of the country, and that it is improper to levy such a percentage on insolvent estates for the payment of officers of the Court. The Trustee will have to be paid for his services, and Section 67 provides for the establishment of a scale of fees of the Court, so that a double charge would seem to be contemplated. No such percentage is provided for under the English Act.

Resolution.—That the first part of Section 31 be altered as follows :—

"The Trustee shall from time to time pay all sums recovered by him under this Act into the General or District Treasury, or into such Bank as the majority of the creditors in number and value at any General Meeting appoint. If the Trustee shall," &c.

Further, that the words from "any Trustee failing to deduct and pay," down to the words "expenses of working this Act," be omitted.

Section 33, Clause 2.—This is a copy of the English Act, but circumstances in India appear to render its application unfair. In the case of the insolvency of a European firm

with highly-paid European Assistants, it would be unfair, and lead to many evil results to discharge such Assistants with Rs. 500. Native Clerks with Rs. 100 or Rs. 125 a month would get a full four months' salary, but the European Assistant on Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 would only receive one month's salary. The Chamber, therefore, proposes that the clause should give a preferential claim for four months' salary.

Resolution.—That in Clause 2, the words "And not exceeding five hundred rupees" be omitted.

Section 35.—In India, house-rent is paid monthly, and it is at the landlord's own option not to distrain or otherwise enforce payment of rent when due. It would be his own fault if he allowed twelve instalments to fall in arrear, as he could at any time distrain or turn the tenant out.

Resolution.—"That in Section 35, for the words 'One year's rent accrued,' be substituted the words 'One month's rent accrued.'"

Section 113.—Under the English Act, the Lord Chancellor has power, after five years have elapsed, for any reason appearing to him sufficient to cause previously unclaimed dividends then for the first time claimed, and which have passed into the hands of the Crown, to be paid to the claimant out of money provided by Parliament. Why should not a similar course be followed in India?

Resolution.—That after the words "as the Governor-General in India may direct," the following words be inserted:—"Provided that at any time after such vesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts or other officials specified in Section 60 of this Act may, by reason of the disability, or absence beyond seas, of the person entitled to the sum so vested, or for any other reason appearing to them sufficient, direct that the said sum shall be repaid out of money provided by the Governor-General of India in Council.

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

Batavia, 6th December, 1870.

FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY,
Batavia.

TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

THE attention of this Chamber has been for some time directed to the consideration of the present state of the Laws of Bankruptcy, with a view to their improvement, in so far as they affect Chinese and other Asiatic traders, under the jurisdiction of the Government of Netherlands India; and we have had occasion, more than once, to urge upon the Government the necessity of adopting more effective legislative measures, for the protection of the European merchant against fraud in his dealings with the native traders referred to.

We have suggested, as an improvement on the existing law, that it should be made obligatory on these traders, particularly the Chinese, to keep their books either in some generally understood European language, or in the Malay—the *lingua franca* of this Archipelago. By their present system of book-keeping, which is exclusively in the Chinese character, European creditors, in their ignorance of that language, are often defrauded to a large extent, while the debtor is able in most cases to escape unpunished.

We have further recommended that the Chinese and other Eastern traders referred to, in cases of insolvency, and under suspicion of crimes or misdemeanours connected therewith, should be subjected to the same laws, and to the jurisdiction of the same Law Court, as the European merchant in similar circumstances. In the case of the latter, the Court of Justice not only judges of the merchant's insolvency, but also convicts and punishes him on proof of fraud. The same Court takes cognisance of the insolvent Chinese or native trader, in so far as to pronounce a sentence of bankruptcy, but here its jurisdiction ends, the crimes and misdemeanours being judged of by an inferior Court, composed of Chinese and native members, with whom conviction is the exception rather than the rule.

In these circumstances we are anxious to collect information as to the laws and customs in cases of bankruptcy of Chinese and other Eastern traders in force in neighbouring

Colonies and Settlements, in the hope that the knowledge of these may facilitate the object we have in view of obtaining better legislation in the premises than at present exists in Netherlands India.

We therefore take the liberty of addressing ourselves to your Chamber with the request that you will kindly provide us with any information in your power referring to this subject. We particularly wish to know: first, the language in which Asiatic merchants and traders in your Colony are allowed or obliged to keep their books; and, second, the special jurisdiction and penal regulations to which these traders are subjected in cases of bankruptcy, and of crimes connected therewith.

We need hardly assure you of our anxious desire to reciprocate information on any subject, within our power, which may be interesting to your Chamber.

For the Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Batavia,

A. VAN DELDER,
Chairman.

No. 34 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
9th February, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY
To the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Batavia.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular letter of 6th December last, requesting to be informed on the following points:—"First, the language in which Asiatic merchants and traders here are allowed or obliged to keep their books; and, second, the special jurisdiction and penal regulations to which these traders are subjected in cases of bankruptcy, and of crimes connected therewith."

Regarding the first point, I am to state, for the information of your Chamber, that in this part of India (and also in all other parts of India) native traders are allowed to keep their books in their own vernacular. In

Bombay itself the books of native traders are for the most part kept in the Guzerati language, which is to a great extent the language of the principal trading classes in Western India. There is great inconvenience from the practice of native traders keeping their books in the vernacular languages, but the evil is modified to some extent by having a body of sworn Interpreters under the authority of H. M.'s High Court of Judicature, who are able to translate the books of Insolvents or Bankrupts when required to do so, and otherwise to interpret on all points when an insolvent is examined, either as to his books or his business transactions. The books of European houses are, as a rule, kept in English.

In reference to your second inquiry, I have to state that the existing Law of Insolvency in the Presidency Towns is an Act passed by the Legislative Council of India in 1848, based on the English Insolvency Act of the preceding year.

Under the 50th Section of this Act, fraudulent debtors may be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

The existing Law of Insolvency in India has long been considered anything but satisfactory; there is, however, a new Bill dealing with the whole question of bankruptcy, at present under the consideration of the Government of India, and this Bill, with certain modifications, will probably become law within the next few months. The new Insolvency Bill was considered by this Chamber at two Special General Meetings of the Members, when Resolutions were passed approving of the principle of the Bill, and suggesting amendments in reference to certain points of detail.

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith, for the information of your Chamber, copy of the letter from this Chamber to Government when handing up the Resolutions passed at the General Meetings, as well as a copy of the Bill itself, which may be useful for reference.

In conclusion, I am to tender you, on behalf of the Committee of Management, the services of this Chamber at all times on any matter in which you may consider these services likely to be of use.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Mauritius, 22nd May, 1871.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—The Chamber of Commerce of Mauritius, feeling that reforms are necessary in the Bankruptcy Laws of the Colony, proposes to consider the subject, in order to suggest amendments to the Government; but thinks it desirable, before doing so, to become acquainted with the existing laws in other Colonies and Countries. I should, therefore, feel greatly obliged if you could forward me copies of the Bankruptcy Laws in force in Bombay, and of any reports made on the subject of Bankruptcy since the passing of these laws.

I have, &c.,
A. J. W. ARNOTT,
President.

No. 168 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
28*th July*, 1871.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Mauritius.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular letter, dated 22nd May last, requesting to be favoured with copies of the Bankruptcy Laws in force in Bombay, and of any reports made on the subject of Bankruptcy since the passing of these laws.

In reply, I am to inform you that the existing law of Bankruptcy in Bombay and the rest of India at present is an Act passed by the Legislative Council of India in 1848, based entirely on the English Insolvency Act of the preceding year. The Committee regret there is not a copy of this Act available in Bombay in a separate form, otherwise they would have been happy to send a copy.

The existing law has long been considered anything but satisfactory; there is, however, a new Bill dealing with the whole question of Bankruptcy, now before the Government of India, and this Bill, with certain modifications, will in all probability become law about the end of the present or early next year. The Bill was considered by this Chamber at two Special General Meetings, when Resolutions were passed approving of the principle of the Bill, and suggesting amendments on certain points of detail.

I have the pleasure to forward, for your information, copy of our letter to Government when handing up the Resolutions, and also a copy of the proposed new Bill.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX B.

EXECUTION OF DECREES AGAINST ABSCONDING DEBTORS IN NATIVE STATES.

Bombay, 31*st October*, 1870.

To the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—I request the favour of your inviting the attention of the Chamber of Commerce to the great hardship and injustice to which the mercantile community of Bombay are liable in consequence of the extreme difficulty (amounting in most cases to an impossibility) of obtaining execution of decrees of the High Court of Bombay against debtors who have absconded to, or have property in, Native States in India.

The majority of native cotton dealers in Bombay are, as must be well known to the Chamber, natives of independent States, and although they reside and carry on business in Bombay, either by themselves or by their Moonims, so long as they can obtain credit, and so long as the transactions in which they are involved result in profit, yet, when such transactions result in liability, it too often happens that the debtor, after remaining in Bombay sufficiently long to throw every possible obstruction and delay in the way of his creditor, absconds to his native country the moment a decree is passed against him, taking with him whatever property he may have had within the jurisdiction of this Court, and practically rendering the decree, to obtain which his creditor has incurred considerable expense, not worth the paper it is written on.

The Chamber are no doubt aware that in the early part of 1867 certain rules were circulated by order of the Governor-General in Council for the guidance of the various Departments, Administrations, and Political representatives of the British Government in India, with a view "to give "facilities for the execution of decrees of Civil tribunals "obtained by British subjects in our own territory by enlisting

" the influence of the several Political authorities with the " Princes and Chiefs of Native States to which the debtor " had absconded, or in which he was possessed of property."

Owing, however, to some objections, which do not appear to have been made public, these rules, though acknowledged by the Governor-General in Council to be " just and equit- " able in principle," were afterwards in 1868 cancelled, and a resolution of the Government of India was substituted, directing that " where no regular tribunals exist in Native " States, the Political representative should, as a general " rule, abstain from putting any pressure on, or using his " influence with, the Chief, or the Durbar, in order to obtain " the execution of a decree obtained in British territory."

In passing this resolution the Governor-General in Council proceeded to argue that it " ought not to inflict any real " hardship on claimants who have successfully resorted to " our Courts for redress, inasmuch as *in many cases* the " absconding debtors leave either property or partners behind " them in British territory against whom execution may be " taken out, and inasmuch as in all cases where plaintiffs " apprehend that a defaulting debtor may abscond, or may " convey away his property, the provisions of Act VIII. of 1859 " regarding the attachment of property while a suit is pend- " ing afford to all litigants who are properly alive to their " rights and position during litigation a fair and adequate " security against eventual loss by evasion or default."

The fallacy of this reasoning must be apparent to every member of the Chamber who has had occasion to resort to legal proceedings against any of the class of debtors here referred to.

It is notorious in Bombay that such debtors if they abscond into Native States do *not*, as a rule, leave either property or partners behind them to satisfy any decree that may be obtained against them, and if, in some exceptional cases, an absconding debtor is possessed of *immoveable* property, which, from its nature, is not always readily convertible into money, it is almost invariably found that, immediately it is attached, a claimant starts up into whose name the property has been transferred, and whose claim it is almost as invariably found impossible to disprove to the satisfaction of a Court of Law, although there is often little

doubt that the claimant is in fact but a nominee or trustee for the absconding debtor.

The present unsatisfactory state of the law with regard to native partnerships, and the extreme difficulty of ascertaining or proving to the satisfaction of the Courts who are partners, or who, as Moonims or Mehtas, are or are not authorized to bind native firms, is equally notorious, and needs no comment.

Equally notorious is the difficulty experienced by suitors in the Courts at Bombay "who apprehend that a defaulting debtor may abscond or convey away his property" (however much "alive to their rights and position") in obtaining the remedy suggested by the Governor-General in Council, of attaching either the persons or property of the debtor whilst the suit is pending, the well known tendency of the Courts here being rather to strain the provisions of Act VIII. of 1859 above referred to *against a creditor* than to enforce them *against a debtor*. To the resolution above referred to, however, the Governor in Council proceeded to add that "there may "occur some flagrant cases in which a defaulting and absconding "debtor possesses large means within the limits of native "territories in which the default and evasion may be "marked by acts of gross fraud and flagrant dishonesty, "and in which by deceit or artifice he may have reduced the "honest creditor to ruin, or have left him without the "slightest prospect of redress, and there may be other "peculiar circumstances which in the judgment of the "Political Officer might render interposition on his part "expedient;" and in such cases the Governor-General in Council observes, "the representative of the British Power "may, when applied to, most properly use his discretion "in pointing out to the Chief and the Durbar the special "circumstances which render intervention desirable, and "may urge them to compel the defaulter to discharge his "liabilities, but that it must be clearly understood that "these cases will form the exception and not the rule, and "that the Political authority will only adopt this course "when he is fully satisfied that the case is distinguished by "exceptional circumstances, and that the claimant has "been the victim of fraud and treachery, and has practically "no other means of obtaining his rights."

It is difficult, however, to conceive any case of a debtor *who, after contracting large liabilities in Bombay, absconds to Native Territory to which he has removed, or in which he is*

possessed of property, with the sole object of avoiding those liabilities, which may not be characterised as an "act of gross fraud and flagrant dishonesty, by which the creditor is left without the slightest prospect of redress," or that any "peculiar circumstances" are required to bring such default and evasion within the above definition. It is a well-recognised principle that the decrees and processes of the Courts of one country are recognized, and, so far as possible, given effect to, by the Courts of another country, and the Government of India, in considering the question on the 10th April 1867, declared its opinion "that there was no reason why this just and equitable "principle should not be recognized in India." Nevertheless, it has been seen that the rules circulated by order of the Governor-General in Council, which recognized and sought to enforce this principle, have since been cancelled, and a creditor is now left, as he was before, entirely without remedy. It seems reasonable and in accordance with all recognized principles of law and good conscience that a debtor who has traded largely in Bombay, and thereby perhaps acquired the very property which he afterwards removes into native territory, and who could invoke the *assistance* of our Courts, should to some extent be amenable to the decrees of those Courts, even though he may have absconded to native territory; and it is with a view of soliciting a reconsideration by the Government of India of their Resolution of August 1868, and of obtaining, if possible, some remedy for an admitted wrong (nowhere perhaps so grievously felt as in Bombay), that I venture to ask the Chamber to take the matter into their consideration, and to make such representations to the Government of India, either direct or through the Government of Bombay as they may think called for.

The very critical time which is approaching in Bombay renders it a matter of great urgency in the interest of the mercantile community that such action as the Government of India may consider the circumstances call for should be taken with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.,

SHA GORDHUNDAS NURROTUMDAS.

No. 257 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
17*th November*, 1870.

SHA GORDHUNDAS NURROTUMDAS, ESQ.,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 31st October on the question of dealing with debtors absconding from Bombay and taking refuge in Native States, which has been duly submitted to the Committee of Management of the Chamber for consideration. I have also to inform you that the fifty printed copies of your letter have been circulated amongst the Members of the Chamber.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 266 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
9*th December*, 1870.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Judicial Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce, to submit herewith, for the information of Government, printed copy of a letter addressed to the Chamber on "the extreme difficulty, amounting in most cases to an impossibility, of obtaining execution of decrees of the High Court of Bombay against debtors who have absconded to, or have property in, Native States in India."

This question, which is one of great importance to the mercantile community of this place, was brought to the notice of Government by the Chamber in 1866, at a time when native insolvencies were so numerous that cases of native debtors absconding were of almost daily occurrence. The cases to which the Chamber then more particularly

referred were those of debtors taking refuge in Portuguese territory, though it was also pointed out that the complaint then made applied with equal force to Native States.

In a communication No. 2,412 of 1866, dated 20th August, Government, in reply, stated in substance that while the Governor in Council was very desirous to assist the Chamber and the mercantile community as far as possible, he regretted that it was not in his power at once to render extraordinary aid.

The question was afterwards considered by the Government of India, when a Resolution, dated 31st January 1867, was communicated to all Governments, Administrations, Departments, and Agencies, to the effect that facilities should be given for the execution of the decrees of Civil tribunals obtained by British subjects in our own territory, by enlisting the influence of the several Political authorities with the Princes and the Chiefs of Native States to which the debtor had absconded, or in which he was possessed of property.

Owing, it appears, to objections entertained by various Political officers, the resolution referred to was re-considered on the 10th April 1867, on which occasion the Governor-General in Council explained "the broad principle under which the decrees of Courts of one nation or country are recognized by the Courts of another country, and the Government declared its opinion that there was no reason why this just and equitable principle should not be recognized in India," and proceeded to modify and explain the Resolution of 31st January, by "proposing more specific rules for the guidance of the Political authorities, and by inviting their opinions on this important question."

The replies to the Circular of 10th April 1867 were considered by the Governor-General of India in Council, and a Resolution No. 240, under date August 27th 1868, was passed, which cancelled the Resolution of the 31st January 1867, and required that all officers should henceforth be guided by the principles laid down in the resolution abovementioned.

It is in reference to the serious difficulty caused to the creditors of absconding debtors by the rescinding of the Resolution of the 31st January 1867, that the letter signed by a native merchant has been addressed to the Chamber.

The Committee desire to point out to His Excellency in Council that, in their opinion, sufficient force has hardly been given to the commercial objections to the course laid down for the guidance of Political officers, in the Government of India Resolution of August 1868.

It is stated that the abstaining of a Political representative from putting pressure on, or using his influence with, the Chief, or the Durbar, in order to the execution of a decree obtained in British territory, ought not to inflict any real hardship on claimants who have successfully resorted to our Courts for redress, because "in many cases where large sums of money are claimed from debtors resident in British territory, such persons, if they abscond into Native States, leave either property or partners behind them in said British territory, against whom execution may at once be taken out."

So far is this from being an exact representation, that, as regards Bombay at all events, the very opposite is nearer the truth, and the experience of the European portion of the mercantile community here is that absconding debtors leave neither property nor partners behind them to satisfy any decree obtained against them. And if Political Agents are not to be permitted to interfere on behalf of British creditors in such cases, justice will be virtually denied them.

The unsatisfactory state of the law with regard to native partnerships, alluded to in the accompanying letter, was specially brought to the notice of Government by the Chamber more than three years ago, when it moved for a legislative enactment for a compulsory registration of the same.

The Committee cannot but express their regret that nothing has yet been done, so far as they are aware, in reference to this important question. At the present time, when native insolvencies are here, unfortunately, of frequent occurrence, we have again cases in which reputed partners in native firms deny that they are partners, and it is all but impossible to prove their statement untrue.

It is quite possible for partners in native firms, now gazetted insolvent, to commence trading again under another name, and before their affairs are settled, without their real character and position being found out.

The Committee respectfully trust His Excellency in Council will give the careful statements and well-considered arguments of the accompanying letter, asking for a re-consideration of the Resolution of the Government of India, dated August 1868, his best attention, and that he will be pleased to commend the same to the favourable consideration of the Government of India without delay.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 2,539.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Political Department, dated 22nd September 1868.

Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 118, dated the 19th May 1868.

I HAVE brought under the consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council the letter from the Government of India, No. 75, dated the 10th of April 1867, on the subject of the execution of the decrees of British Courts in Foreign States, and *vice versâ*, and in reply am directed to communicate the following observations.

2. It does not seem to the Governor in Council that any general proposal, such as that indicated by the Government of India, could be advantageously adopted. The enforcement of decrees of our Courts is not likely to be obtained unless we act on the principle of reciprocity in the matter. In the case of Native States, where there are established Courts to whose decrees full credit can be given as being the result of independent and impartial investigation, our Courts might probably enforce such decrees in the same manner as they would those of any other Foreign State, and reciprocally decrees of our Courts would be enforced, not by the Executive Government, or under the influence of the Political Agent, but by the Courts of the Native State. His Excellency in Council apprehends for this no Conventions or special

action of the Government of India is requisite, and he does not think any other course of procedure would be advisable.

3. As regards Native States, where there are not independent and regularly constituted Courts, such a procedure would be impossible, and His Excellency in Council believes that the attempt to enforce our Civil decrees through the influence and by the interposition of the Political Agent, would lead to constant disputes, and impair largely the position of the Political Agent.

4. It appears to the Governor in Council, then, that in the case of the most enlightened Native States the proposed action of the Government of India is unnecessary, and in the others inexpedient.

5. I am to add that the Government of India might with advantage ascertain whether our Courts would or would not give effect to the decrees of any of the Native States at the present moment.

No. 240.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Foreign Department (Judicial), under date Simla, the 27th August 1868.

Read again the following papers regarding the execution of the decrees of British Courts in Foreign States :—

Resolution No. 23, dated 31st January 1867.
Circulars Nos. 74 and 75, dated 10th April 1867.

Read also the following replies to the abovementioned Circulars :—

From Resident, Nepaul, No. 2, dated 24th April 1867.
„ Political Agent, Munnipore, No. 33, dated 27th April 1867.
„ Officiating Commissioner, Mysore, No. 606-15, dated 30th April 1867.
„ Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, No. 100 P., dated 6th May 1867.
„ Resident, Hyderabad, No. 21, dated 10th May 1867.
„ Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Oudh, No. 1,960, dated 20th May 1867.
„ Under-Secretary, Government of Bengal, No. 4,554, dated 24th July 1867.
„ Secretary to Government of Punjab, No. 275-1121, dated 25th July 1867.
„ Agent, Governor-General, Rajpootana, No. 929-12 J., dated 5th August 1867.
„ Acting Chief Secretary, Fort St. George, No. 1,276, dated 7th August 1867.
„ Agent, Governor-General, Central India, No. 10-231, dated 24th August 1867.
„ Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces, No. 292 A., dated 28th Aug. 1867.
„ Agent, Governor General, Central India, No. 12-252, dated 9th September 1867.
„ Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 118, dated 19th May 1868.

Resolution.—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council observes that the object aimed at by the Resolution of the 31st of January 1867, which was forwarded

to all Governments, Administrations, Departments, and Agencies, was to give facilities for the execution of the decrees of Civil tribunals obtained by British subjects in our own territory, by enlisting the influence of the several Political authorities with the Princes and the Chiefs of Native States to which the debtor had absconded, or in which he was possessed of property.

2. It then appeared that several Political officers objected to the Resolution in question, and the subject again came under the consideration of the Government on the 10th of April 1867.

3. On that occasion the Governor-General in Council explained the broad principle under which the decrees of Courts of one nation or country are recognized by the Courts of another country, and the Government declared its opinion that there was no reason why this just and equitable principle should not be recognized in India. The Governor-General in Council next proceeded to modify and explain the Resolution of the 31st of January preceding, by proposing more specific rules for the guidance of the Political authorities, and by inviting their opinions on this important question. The Rules, it may be stated, comprised the following provisions :—

I.—Where there were regular Courts in Native States, the holder of a decree obtained from a British tribunal was himself to apply to such Native Courts for the execution of his decree.

II.—Where there were no regular Courts, the decree-holder was to bring the decree to the notice of the Native Ruler, through the Political representative of the British Government, who was to recommend to the Native Chief or Prince, that effect should be given to the decree in whatever way the system of administering justice in such State would permit.

III.—The practice of reciprocity in execution of decrees between our own and native tribunals was, if possible, to be adopted.

4. The replies to the Circular abovementioned of the 10th of April, inviting opinions and suggestions, have been received, and have been fully considered by the Government of India in Council.

5. The opinions of the experienced officers consulted on this question differ considerably, both as to the propriety of issuing the proposed instructions, and as to the possibility of attaining the end which the Government had in contemplation.

6. The Governor General in Council sees no reason whatever to question the soundness and equity of the principle laid down in the Circular of the 10th April 1867, nor does he cease to hope that, in process of time, regular tribunals may gradually be established in all important Native States, which shall eventually secure the confidence of suitors, which shall be reliable instruments for the execution of the decrees of British tribunals, and which, in their turn, shall deliver decrees such as would, in ordinary cases, be respected by our own Judges.

7. But looking to the weighty objections urged by several able and experienced officers to the adoption of the second provision of the Circular in question, to the inexpediency of subjecting Native Princes and Chiefs to the constant official pressure of the British representatives, to the irritation and complications to which such a course might possibly give rise, and to the probability that, in the end, the legitimate influence of high Civil or Military officers may be weakened or diverted from its proper scope, the Government of India is not prepared to insist on carrying out the instructions which it had previously contemplated in the interest of honest and successful suitors. In future, then, all Administrations and Political representatives of the British Government will be guided solely by the following instructions.

8. The rule contemplated for cases and States where regular tribunals exist will still be maintained. Holders of decrees obtained in British tribunals must present them themselves, or by their lawfully-constituted agents, for execution before such tribunals, without in any way invoking the aid or relying on the influence of the British representative. The question of reciprocity in the execution of decrees is one which the tribunals of the respective Governments must decide.

9. Where there are no regular tribunals, the Political representative will, as a general rule, abstain from putting any pressure on, or using his influence with, the Chief, or the

Durbar, in order to the execution of a decree obtained in British territory.

10. Nor ought this determination to inflict any real hardship on claimants who successfully have resorted to our Courts for redress.

11. In many cases where large sums of money are claimed from debtors resident in British territory, such persons, if they abscond into Native States, leave either property or partners behind them in the said British territory, against whom execution may at once be taken out; and in all cases where plaintiffs apprehend that a defaulting debtor may abscond, or may convey away his property, the provisions of Act VIII. of 1859, regarding the attachment of property while a suit is pending, afford to all litigants, who are properly alive to their rights and position during litigation, a fair and adequate security against eventual loss by evasion or default.

12. There may occur, however, the Governor General in Council observes, some flagrant cases in which a defaulting and absconding debtor possesses large means within the limits of native territories, in which the default and evasion may be marked by acts of gross fraud and flagrant dishonesty, and in which, by deceit or artifice, he may have reduced the honest creditor to ruin, or have left him without the slightest prospect of redress; and there may be other peculiar circumstances which, in the judgment of the Political officer, might render interposition on his part expedient.

13. In such cases the representative of the British Power may, when applied to, most properly use his discretion in pointing out to the Chief and the Durbar the special circumstances which render intervention desirable, and may urge them to compel the defaulter to discharge his liabilities. In cases of remarkable difficulty or doubt, the Political authority may, if he thinks fit, refer the matter to Government for orders before taking any action.

14. But it must be clearly understood that these cases will form the exception and not the rule, and that the Political authority will only adopt this course when he is fully satisfied that the case is distinguished by exceptional circumstances, and that the claimant has been the victim of fraud and trickery, and has practically no other means of obtaining his rights.

15. In such marked cases, the Governor-General in Council does not doubt that the moral influence and advice of the British official may be properly exerted, and that the Durbar will recognise the propriety of insisting that the evading debtor shall come to some satisfactory arrangement with his creditors.

16. The Resolution of the 31st of January is hereby cancelled, and all officers will henceforth be guided by the principles as above laid down.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to all Departments, Governments, Administrations, and Agencies.

[True Extract.]

(Signed) W. S. SETON-KARR,
Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX C.

DELAYS IN H. M.'s HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE.

No. 125 of 1871.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce,
31*st May*, 1871.

To the Secretary to Government,
Judicial Department, Bombay.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of Management to state, for the information of Government, that various representations have been made to the Chamber by the mercantile portion of the community complaining of the very serious delays that take place in the despatch of business in H. M.'s High Court of Judicature.

The delays complained of may be classed under three heads :—

First, and principally, there is great complaint in reference to the delay on the part of the Court in the delivery of its judgments in cases where judgment is reserved.

Second.—There is complaint of delay in the preparation and sealing of the decrees and orders of the Court in the Prothonotary's Office, which, in cases of urgency, such as injunctions, is often prejudicial to the interests of suitors.

Third.—The time taken up in the taxation of costs (without which a decree cannot be drawn up or executed) is often so long as to cause serious loss to suitors, by permitting a judgment debtor to get in and realize his property, and then abscond with it before the decree can be executed against him.

Much of the delay complained of, the Committee are informed, is attributable to the increase of business in the Court and to the paucity of Judges. In reference to this last head, the fact is notorious that, from 1863 to April 1870, there were four Judges on the Original Jurisdiction Side of

the High Court, and that since the date mentioned there have been only three.

The Committee, however, offer no opinion on the cause or causes of the delays that obstruct the despatch of business in H. M.'s High Court. What they desire is to draw the attention of Government to the fact that there is often serious delay, and respectfully to request that the attention of His Excellency in Council may be given to this important matter, in order that the evil complained of may be remedied.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

No. 2,911 of 1871.

Bombay Castle,

28*th July*, 1871.

Judicial Department.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 31st May 1871, stating that representations have been made to the Chamber by the mercantile portion of the community complaining of delays in the despatch of business in H. M.'s High Court of Judicature.

2. In reply, I am desired to state that copies of your letter have been forwarded to the Government of India and H. M.'s Principal Secretary of State for India, and that the subject will be duly considered.

I have, &c.,

J. NUGENT,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX D.

HIGH TARIFF OF RATES FOR PIECE-GOODS AND YARNS BY THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
23rd January, 1871.

H. P. LEMESURIER, ESQ.,
Agent G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the correspondence of last year regarding the very high tariff of rates for the conveyance of piece-goods and cotton per G. I. P. Railway, as compared with those of the East Indian Railway, and the explanations given on the subject to the Committee by Mr. Conder, General Traffic Manager, I am to state that the question has again been pressed on the attention of the Chamber by the merchants of this city; and I have now to submit, by direction of the Committee of Management, for your immediate consideration, the annexed comparative Statement of the carriage charges on the two lines.

It is unnecessary to dwell on the details of this Memorandum, as the points brought out are so clear that they may be said to explain themselves. From this Statement it will be seen that, notwithstanding the reductions that have been made, the charges for the conveyance of goods by the G. I. P. Railway are still more than three times higher than those by the East Indian line.

The Committee earnestly hope that, in the interests of the trade of this side of India, the Railway authorities will see the expediency of lessening the present excessive rates, and thereby increase their own traffic, while they promote and extend the prosperity of Bombay.

Trusting a matter so important to the interests of this place may receive your prompt and careful consideration, and that the Committee may receive an early and favourable reply,

I remain, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

Comparative Statement of Carriage Charges for Piece-Goods on the G. I. P. and East Indian Railways.

Example:—10 bales, 39 in. 8½ lbs., Grey Shirtings, English packed, with iron hoops, value Rs. 2,875; weight 39 cwts. 5 lbs., or 53¼ maunds (one maund = 82 lbs.)

Charge for carriage of the above 10 bales by G. I. P. Railway from Bombay
To Bhoosawul ... 275 miles, at Rs. 2-6-11 per maund, Rs. 129-11-7, or 4·51 per cent. on value.
„ Jubbulpoor ... 615 „ at „ 3-5- 0 „ „ 176-10-8, or 6·14 „ „
„ Allahabad ... 842 „ at „ 3-8- 8 „ „ 188-14-3, or 6·57 „ „

Charge for carriage of the above 10 bales by E. I. Railway from Calcutta
To Sooltangunge 280 miles, at Rs. 0-11-9 per maund, Rs. 39-2-8, or 1·30 per cent. on value.
„ Allahabad ... 632 „ at „ 1-10-3 „ „ 87-8-0, or 3·04 „ „
„ Jubbulpoor ... 847 „ at „ 2- 3-3 „ „ 117-8-0, or 4·08 „ „

From the above figures it may be seen—

1*st.*—That for conveying goods to a station, distant 275 miles from Bombay, the G. I. P. Railway Company charge *more than three times* as much as the East Indian Railway do for forwarding goods to a similar distance from Calcutta.

2*nd.*—That goods can be sent from Calcutta to Allahabad at a cost of a *shade over* 3 *per cent. on value*, while for not quite an equal distance from Bombay to Jubbulpoor the charge is *more than* 6¼ *per cent.*

3*rd.*—That although Jubbulpoor is 232 *miles* nearer to Bombay than to Calcutta, yet the charge for the carriage of goods along the shorter distance is 50 *per cent. more* than for that along the longer one.

4*th.*—That in consequence of the exorbitant tariff of the G. I. P. Railway, Bombay is not only driven out from all chance of supplying the N. W. Provinces, the Punjab, and countries beyond the frontier with English piece-goods, but that many districts in Central India, which from their proximity might fairly be supposed to belong to Bombay, are instead supplied from Calcutta.

5*th.*—That if the rates of the G. I. P. Railway were uniformly the same as those of the East Indian Railway (viz., ½ pie per maund per mile), the cost of sending goods to Allahabad, which is 210 miles further from Bombay, would only be about 1·03 per cent. more than from Calcutta, and this difference would be made up by the lower percentage of charges on goods shipped from England to Bombay, as compared with goods shipped from England to Calcutta; so that goods destined for the districts north and west of Allahabad would probably find their way there from Bombay instead of from Calcutta.

No. 2,236 A.

THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY,
Bombay, 22nd March, 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I have deferred an official reply to your letter of 23rd January until I had opportunity of personally making myself acquainted with the feeling of the up-country traders as to our rates.

You are aware, from my demi-official notes to yourself, that the subject of your letter under reply has engaged my best attention during the last two months.

The statement which you forwarded to me with the above letter deals with the comparative rates of the G. I. P. R. and the E. I. Railway. Now, on the part of the G. I. P. Railway Company, I must point out that it is not with these comparative rates that we are concerned, so much as with the entire cost of transport, including all charges, between the point from which any particular class of merchandise takes its departure and the point at which its journey ends. If reasons were wanted, good and sound ones could be readily brought forward in support of a higher tariff on the G. I. P. R. than on the E. I. R. But if we could feel that, in the absence of any unusual disturbing conditions, our rates were so regulated that piece-goods or other imported merchandise could reach a station in Upper India, equidistant from the ports of Bombay and Calcutta, at an equal cost from original point of departure by either route, then, keeping in view the greater facilities which the Bombay route ought to afford, we should be in a position to wait for the traffic that would certainly come to us without further reference to the rates on other railways.

I am aware that in the case of Manchester goods our rates at present do not admit of delivery at or beyond Jubbulpoor quite so cheaply *viâ* Bombay as *viâ* Calcutta, although the difference in cost between Manchester and the ultimate destination of the goods—taking all charges between the two points—is not so much in favour of E. I. R. route as appears from your figures. I do not, however, think that the actual difference in freight is sufficient to account for the very limited quantity of Manchester goods that passes over our line as compared with the quantity carried by the

E. I. R., more particularly, because I notice that in the case of other goods, for which our rates are decidedly favourable, the trade is still with Calcutta, and in some cases has returned to Calcutta after a trial of Bombay.

Other causes than our rates are evidently operating at present to the prejudice of the commerce of Bombay; and as in process of time it becomes evident from our Traffic Returns that these causes are being removed, in so far as they affect those articles for which our tariff is advantageous, we shall set ourselves to deal with the cases wherein we may perceive that our rates are such as to divert traffic which ought legitimately to fall to our share.

It is hardly necessary for me to point out that the whole trade of Hindoostan is at present in a most abnormal condition, and it would be most imprudent and impolitic on our part to commence to alter our rates now, at a certain ultimate loss to ourselves, to meet this exceptional and, I hope, short-lived state of affairs. As business assumes a more settled aspect, I trust we may be able to adapt ourselves to its requirements in such a way as to throw no weight into the scale against Bombay; or, in other words, I hope we may have no disposition to cut our own throats.

I venture to think that a good deal more than a modification of our piece-goods rates is required to divert, even by slow degrees, the trade of India from its present channels, particularly when it is remembered that the European firms in Calcutta have been labouring hard, supported by influential and well-organized up-country branch establishments for more than half a century, to secure the very course of trade, to change which all we who are interested in Bombay are now beginning to strive.

The Members of the Chamber of Commerce must be aware of several important elements, other than our rates, which still combine to render merchandise delivered in Central India *vid* Bombay dearer than *vid* Calcutta, and which at the same time induce the somewhat conservative native traders to prefer, for a time at least, a continuance of business relations with their old and well-known Calcutta correspondents, even though they are promised in some cases a shade of advantage by change in the direction of Bombay.

I am, &c.,

HENRY P. LEMESURIER.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
19*th April*, 1871.

H. P. LEMESURIER, Esq.,
Agent G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 22nd ultimo, in answer to the letter dated 23rd January last, which I had the honour of addressing to you, under instructions from the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of the high tariff of rates for the carriage of piece-goods and yarns by the G. I. P. Railway.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that the Committee have perused your letter with feelings of disappointment, inasmuch as it does not touch on the facts brought to your notice, showing how the rates of carriage by the G. I. P. Railway affect so injuriously the trade of Bombay with Central and Northern India.

3. In the Comparative Statement of Rates by the G. I. P. and E. I. Railways, which accompanied my letter above referred to, it was shown that the charges by the G. I. P. Railway were more than three times higher than those by the East Indian line; that while piece-goods can be sent from Calcutta to Allahabad at a cost of 3 per cent. on the value, the charge from Bombay to Jubbulpoor, a shorter distance, was more than 6½ per cent.; and that in consequence of the high tariff of rates by the G. I. P. Railway, Bombay is not only cut off in great measure from a trade which it formerly possessed with the N. W. Provinces, the Punjab, and countries beyond the frontier, but also from many districts of Central India, which, from their proximity, might fairly be expected to be supplied from Bombay, but are now supplied from Calcutta.

4. To these and other not less important points, to which your attention was directed, the Committee regret to observe your letter under acknowledgment gives no answer.

5. In reference to the comparative statement of rates in question, you say "that it is not with these comparative rates that we are concerned, so much as with the entire cost of transport, including all charges, between the point

from which any particular class of merchandise takes its departure and the point at which its journey ends."

6. The meaning of this is by no means clear, but probably the interpretation of the remark is to be found in another paragraph of your letter, wherein it is stated "that the difference in cost between Manchester and the ultimate destination of the goods—taking all charges between the two points—is not so much in favour of the E. I. Railway route as it appears from your figures."

7. From this it appears to follow, you are of opinion that, as in the trade between India and England, Bombay derives advantage from her geographical position, it is quite legitimate on the part of the G. I. P. Railway to mulct Bombay of this advantage: and this, it must be admitted, the Railway does very effectually, by its high rates for the carriage of cloth and yarns from this port to the interior.

8. In your letter under reply it is stated "that if reasons were wanted, good and sound ones could be readily brought forward in support of a higher tariff on the G. I. P. Railway than on the E. I. Railway."

9. To this it is sufficient to reply that the facts set forth in my letter of 23rd January, urgently demanded that the soundest and best reasons should be given in defence of, not merely "a higher tariff," but an *exorbitantly higher tariff* on the G. I. P. Railway than exists on the E. I. Railway; and what the Committee have to regret on this point is that you have not only omitted to give "good and sound reasons," but definite reasons of any kind.

10. The Committee entirely disagree with your remarks about "the whole trade of Hindoostan being at present in an abnormal condition," and so forth. There is nothing unusual or unsound about the trade of Hindoostan; and as regards the Bombay share of that trade, especially in piece-goods and yarns, with the interior, the only thing we have to complain of is your enormously high rates for carriage, which have the effect of excluding us from markets which were formerly to a considerable extent supplied by us.

11. And the Committee believe it will be generally recognized as a cause of most just complaint, that a Railway called into existence by a State guarantee to aid—among

other important purposes—in developing trade between Bombay and other parts of India, should, by a narrow and unsound financial policy, not only check the development of Bombay trade with the interior, but neutralize to some extent the advantages that have hitherto accrued from the comparative proximity of Bombay to Europe.

12. In reference to your remarks on the difficulty of diverting from places on the other side of India trade between the Upper Provinces and Calcutta, well organized and established during a long course of years, I am to observe that while the Committee agree in the main with these remarks, they consider they are inapplicable to the branch of trade which has been specially brought under your consideration.

13. I should however mention, for your information, that we have had dealers in the Bombay market this season desirous of purchasing goods when Bombay prices were slightly lower than at Calcutta, but the advantage they would have had on this point was entirely lost to them, owing to the heavier charges for carriage by G. I. P. Railway.

14. In conclusion, I am to state that as the whole tone and tenor of your letter precludes the hope of our receiving from the Railway Company, as represented here, the redress the merchants of Bombay have a right to expect, the Committee have now no alternative but to lay this correspondence before the Government of Bombay, as well as before your Board at Home, and invoke their assistance in a matter so material to the prosperity of the Commerce of Bombay.

I remain, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 3,038 of 1871.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company,
Bombay, 20th April, 1871.

James Taylor, Esq.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th April, and to thank you for the same.

The Agent desires me to add that he will be prepared to give every attention, during his stay in England, to the subject of the Chamber's recent communications, and that he will be very glad indeed to consider the whole question when the reference is made to the Home Board.

I remain, &c.,
H. I. P. THOMSON,
Secretary.

No. 98 of 1871.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce,
12*th May,* 1871.

T. R. Watt, Esq.,
Secretary and Managing Director
G. I. P. Railway Company, London.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to forward, herewith, for the information of the Directors of the G. I. P. Railway Company, printed copies of a correspondence between your Agent in Bombay and the Chamber on the subject of the high tariff of rates for the carriage of piece-goods and yarns by the G. I. P. line of Railway from Bombay to the interior.

The question at issue between the merchants of Bombay and the Railway authorities is so clearly brought out in the correspondence referred to, that the Committee of the Chamber do not consider it necessary to add anything further on their part, at present, beyond requesting you will be good enough to take the earliest opportunity of

placing the correspondence, together with this letter, before the Board of Directors for their immediate consideration. And I am to express the hopes of the Committee that the Board will recognize the justice of the views expressed in the interests alike of the trade of Bombay and of the Railway Company, and reduce, as promptly as possible, the present high tariff to the moderate scale of rates now in force on the East Indian line.

I am, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY OFFICES,
No. 3, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.,
London, 15*th June*, 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt, on the 10th inst., of your letter of the 12th May, ultimo, and the printed copies of a correspondence between this Company's Agent in Bombay and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, upon the subject of the tariff of rates in force upon this Railway for the carriage of piece-goods and yarns. I will submit these to the Board of Directors at their first meeting; but I may mention, in the meantime, that this subject has already occupied the Board's attention, and is receiving their careful consideration.

I am, &c.,

T. R. WATT,
Managing Director.

No. 99 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
12*th May*, 1871.

JULAND DANVERS, ESQ.,
Government Director
Indian Railway Companies, India Office, London.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to forward herewith, for your information, a printed copy of correspondence between the Chamber and the Bombay Agent of the G. I. P. Railway Company on the subject of the high tariff of rates for piece-goods and yarns from Bombay to the interior of India by this line of railway. And I am respectfully to express the hopes of the Committee that in your capacity of Government Director of Indian Railway Companies you will exert your influence with the G. I. P. Railway Board of Directors to get the high rates by the G. I. P. Railway, so detrimental to the trade of this part of India, reduced to the moderate scale now in force on the East Indian line.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

INDIA OFFICE, WHITEHALL,
23*rd June*, 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 12th ult., regarding the rates charged by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the conveyance of certain goods on their lines, and to assure you, in reply, that the subject has received, and shall continue to receive, my best consideration in communication with the Directors of the Company.

The object should be to adopt such measures as are at the same time calculated to meet all the reasonable requirements of the public, to produce remunerative returns to the Company, and to relieve the State from the burden of the guarantee.

I have, &c.,
JULAND DANVERS.

No. 101 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
13th May, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Railway Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to forward herewith, for the information of Government, printed copies of a correspondence between the Chamber and the Agent in Bombay of the G. I. P. Railway Company on the subject of the high tariff of rates for the carriage of piece-goods and yarns by that line from Bombay to the interior; and I am to request you will be good enough to place this correspondence before His Excellency in Council without delay, in order that His Excellency may take such steps, as may to him seem meet, for the reduction in the rates of carriage by this line of Railway, so imperatively demanded in the interests of Bombay trade, but which the Railway authorities, by their representative in Bombay, have hitherto demurred to concede.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 784 of 1871.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 5th July, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 13th May, on the subject of the high tariff for the carriage of piece-goods on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

2. I am to explain that, although Government have the right, under the deed of contract, to regulate the tariff on the guaranteed lines under their control, they have, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, waived this right of

late years, and confined themselves to fixing certain maximum rates for each class of goods, within which the Agents are allowed to vary the rates according to their judgment.

3. His Excellency in Council concurs, however, in the opinion of the Chamber that no sufficient reason has been shown by the Agent for the maintenance of the present high scale of charges for piece-goods between Bombay and Jubbulpoor, and that a reduction of the rate is needed in the interest of the trade of Bombay, as well, probably, as of the Railway Company.

4. He has accordingly directed the Consulting Engineer for Railways to discuss the necessity of reduction with the Railway authorities in India, and has forwarded copies of the correspondence to the Secretary of State for India, with a request that the immediate attention of the Board of Directors may be directed to the subject.

I have, &c.,

H. F. HANCOCK, Captain, R.E.,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 149 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
4th July, 1871.

M. E. GRANT-DUFF, ESQ., M.P.,
Under-Secretary of State for India,
India Office, London.

SIR,—I have the honour to state that, by direction of the Committee of Management of this Chamber, I have despatched to your address, in a separate packet, copies of printed correspondence between the Chamber and the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in Bombay on the subject of the high tariff of rates for the carriage of piece-goods and yarns by that Railway from Bombay to the interior; and I am to request you will do the Committee the favour to place the correspondence before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council for his consideration. I am

further to state, for your information, that the subject of the correspondence has been brought before the Government of Bombay, Mr. Danvers, Government Director of Indian Railways, and the Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

INDIA OFFICE,
25*th August*, 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th ultimo, forwarding copy of a correspondence between the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company relative to the rates charged for carriage of piece-goods, &c., by that Railway, which has been duly laid before the Duke of Argyll.

His Grace is informed that the Directors have recently directed that such reductions be made in the rates in question as, whilst fully protecting the Company's interests, will, they hope, meet the reasonable expectations of the Bombay merchants.

I have, &c.,

HERMAN MERIVALE.

APPENDIX E.

THE COTTON FRAUDS ACT OF 1863.

No. 193 of 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
20th August, 1870.

To THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce respectfully to inquire whether the Report from the Cotton Department for the year 1869-70 is yet ready; and, if not, when it may be expected? The Committee are desirous of being made acquainted with the Report prior to the Annual Meeting of the Chamber, which takes place towards the end of next month.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 250 of 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
7th November, 1870.

To THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to the letter which I had the honour to address to you on the 20th of August last, under instructions from the Committee of Management of the Chamber, inquiring when the Report of the Cotton Commissioner for 1869-70 would be published.

I am now directed to state that a copy was sent to the Chamber from the Cotton Commissioner's Office in the end of September, but one copy is not sufficient for the Members of the Committee, and I am to request you will be so good as to give instructions for six copies to be sent to this Office, in order that they may be circulated for the information of the Members, while the subject of the Report is being considered by the Chamber.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 5,552 OF 1870.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 11th November, 1870.

MEMORANDUM.—The undersigned presents compliments to the Secretary to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and, in compliance with a request contained in his letter of the 7th instant, begs to forward herewith six copies of the Administration Report of the Cotton Department for the year 1869-70.

H. E. JACOMB,
Under-Secretary to Government.

COTTON FRAUDS DEPARTMENT—REPORT 1869-70.

Town Hall, Bombay, 23rd July, 1870.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

SIR,—I have now the honour to submit to Government the Annual Report of this Department for the past year, 1869-70.

2. Of the several documents appended, the first (marked A) shows the number of presses licensed and worked throughout the Presidency during 1869-70, compared with those of the previous year. It will be seen that there is an increase

in the number of presses worked by manual labour, there being 306 in 1869-70, against 294 in the preceding year; while there is a decrease in the number of steam-presses, of which there were 171 in 1868-69, the number in the year under report being 169. The decrease is due to Broach and Surat, where the number has been reduced from 4 to 1. The net decrease, however, amounts only to two, as there has been one new press added to those in Bombay.

3. The superior advantages of steam-power, and the perfection attained in the manufacture of steam-presses, have driven manual labour almost entirely out of the market in as far as full-pressing of cotton for export is concerned, and consequently there are now but very few hand-presses retained in use for this purpose, beyond the six licensed to be worked in Bombay. Half-pressing, on the other hand, is entirely effected by hand labour, and is only resorted to in the Mofussil, the object being the convenient packing of cotton for transmission to the place of export, to be there finally full-pressed. There are accordingly no half-presses in use at the Presidency.

4. From the complaints that have been made, it would seem that half-pressing up-country has met with considerable discouragement, owing to the relative rates charged by the Railway Companies for half and full-pressed bales. Without reference to the advantage of the cotton trade generally, it is questionable how far the Railway Companies serve even their own interest in this matter, if one may judge by the large quantities of cotton actually carried over hundreds of miles along the Railway lines in bullock-carts, as well as that brought to Bombay by water-carriage; whilst, on the other hand, there can be no doubt whatever that the interests of the cotton trade would be best secured by having every pound of cotton that can be brought within reach of the Railway carried to the Presidency by that means of conveyance.

5. The Cotton Inspector for Khandeish, at para. 21 of his Report, refers to the fact that the half-presses at Julgaum, 11 in number, which were last year in full occupation, have fallen into disuse on account of the alteration which the Railway authorities have introduced with respect to the charges for carriage of half-pressed and loose cotton, as compared with that for full-pressed bales; the rates on that line having been greatly enhanced upon the former in favour

of the latter. Of course it cannot be disputed that, in as far as comfort and convenience are concerned, full-pressed cotton is the most agreeable for the Railway employés to have to deal with. It saves time, space, and trouble in stowage, and also, on the general results, wear and tear of rolling-stock, insomuch as it diminishes the amount of the latter that would be otherwise indispensable for meeting the requirements of this branch of their traffic. But if the only object of the alteration referred to has been to enforce the practice of full-pressing up-country, the policy, as far as the pecuniary interests of the Railway Companies are concerned, must be admitted to be very questionable. Its effect seems to be rather to drive parties from the Railway to recourse to other modes of conveyance; and this is the more to be regretted, since the people have not yet come to appreciate those advantages offered by the Railway which do not rest upon the score of expense. Economy in time they commonly regard as entirely subordinate to pecuniary advantage; and if, therefore, they found that they could not bring their cotton to Bombay by rail at less expense than by boats or country carts, they would not be slow to avail themselves of the latter, unless, indeed, any peculiar circumstance, such as the fulfilment of a contract, rendered resort to the Railway compulsory.

6. It must take some time yet before full-presses can be established in sufficient numbers, even along the line of the Railway, to deal with the whole of the cotton produce which comes within its range, and until such can be shown to have taken place, half-pressing, which is the next most convenient form for the Railway, instead of being discouraged and restrained, should meet with favour, even if there was no other object to be gained by it than that of supplanting the system of carrying cotton in loose dokras, which is in every respect, as regards the interests of all parties concerned, a much more objectionable mode of packing cotton.

7. The discouragement of half-pressing up-country I look upon as a mistake that is in many important respects detrimental to the welfare of the trade, and in my opinion, the objections taken to it are in no degree equivalent to the advantages that would accrue from its being generally supported. The chief reason urged against it by native dealers in Bombay is the difficulty it occasions in sampling the bales, as compared with cotton packed in loose dokras. This arises

from want of confidence in the up-country agents or dealers by whom the cotton is consigned to them; but if, instead of keeping to the Bombay Green, they would betake themselves, or send samplers upon whom they could depend, to the marts in the interior from which their cotton comes, the half-press would then be their safeguard, as they could make sure that their purchases could not be tampered with on the journey to Bombay, where, on arrival, no further sampling would be required.

8. If this course was resorted to, half-pressing of cotton would become the rule, and the facilities for inspection which it would afford to this Department, from the fact that all cotton brought to be half-pressed would then be made to pass under the eye of the Inspector, would go a very long way towards putting a stop to the outcry that is now so prevalent about up-country adulteration. What is wanted in this matter is unity on the part of the Bombay merchants, European and Native. If they were to combine in favour of up-country half-pressing (instead of discouraging it as they now do), the practice would soon become general: in fact, by unanimity, they could enforce it, and, in so doing, they would establish a check upon frauds and malpractices, now almost openly resorted to with impunity; and this, besides contributing towards the good name of our produce in the home market, would more than compensate well-meaning merchants for any extra trouble it entailed, by the comparative security against loss from frauds which it would carry with it, provided our Detective Department had their cordial support in working the system in event of its being generally adopted.

9. I have dwelt upon this single advantage of half-pressing, because it is one which requires the co-operation of the trade; but, even putting it aside, there are several other benefits which, in themselves, are sufficient to commend the system to notice. Any one visiting our presses must be struck with the large quantity of soiled and dirty cotton taken from the outside of loose dokras and subsequently pressed as "pickings," all of which might be saved by sufficient half-pressing. And in the matter of adulteration and cotton robberies perpetrated by boatmen at their leisure during the sea voyage, if the cotton entrusted to them was half-pressed they would no longer be able to compass at least one species of plunder long known to be common with

them; namely, that of extracting from every loose bale a given amount of cotton, and replacing it with a measured quantity of salt-water and sand from their ballast sufficient to restore the weight of the dokra, for which on delivery they are held answerable.

10. Appendix B shows the form of the licenses under which cotton-presses are at present permitted to be worked. These have hitherto been renewed on the 1st of January of each year, as required by the Frauds Act. It has been suggested by the Cotton Inspector for Ahmedabad, that it would be more convenient, in practice, if the period of the licenses were made to correspond with the cotton season instead of with the calendar year. This, however, would require a change in the law, and it does not seem to me of sufficient importance to render such change advisable. It will be seen that each license contains a clause providing that while it remains in force it will be "subject to such rules as the Governor in Council may from time to time prescribe." In my letter No. 104 of 5th May 1869, I informed Government that this clause had been inserted in accordance with the terms of Section 5 of the Cotton Frauds Act, and that it enables His Excellency in Council at any time to pass rules required for the better management of the presses.

11. With my letter No. 243 of 5th August 1869, I had the honour to submit for the approval of Government a draft of such rules, and a copy of them will be found attached to this report as Appendix C. I have not as yet been favoured with the instructions of Government regarding these rules, but I submit that it seems very desirable to pass them without delay, as their necessity is daily becoming more apparent. From the report of the Senior Cotton Inspector (Appendix F), it appears that so many as 20,000 bales were in the last year pressed in his division alone, on Sundays and at other times, when there could have been no inspection on the part of this Department. This could be provided for, if the rules in question were brought into operation. I may add that they were framed after careful consideration and with the express object of avoiding interference with the free working of the presses, which, though the rules were passed, might still be at liberty to work at all times without interruption.

12. The Return now furnished (Appendix D) of cotton gins shows an increase of 53 over the number exhibited in the statement of last year. The increase has only taken place in the Ahmedabad districts, where the number is 275, against 195 last year. In South Guzerat and Khandeish, where there were 950 and 133 gins respectively last year, the numbers now are 943 and 113. It is to be observed that the above refers exclusively to cotton gins driven by steam.

13. The Cotton Inspector for Khandeish draws attention to the expediency of introducing a system of licenses into cotton ginning-yards. This, however, is much too extensive a measure to be at all practicable. If it was the custom of each village community to bring all its cotton to be cleaned at one common ginning-yard, the measure might be carried out; but such is not the case. Usually it is only the large cotton-dealers who possess ginning-yards where labour is hired; with the exception of these, a cotton gin or two may be found at work in almost every private dwelling, and to bring all these under such a system as that proposed would be impossible.

14. I would beg to solicit particular attention to the letter from the Collector of Khandeish, attached to this Report as Appendix JA. Mr. Ashburner, while referring to Mr. Wilkinson's proposal, suggests a measure which in its nature is very different, and which in practice appears to me perfectly feasible. I do not consider that Mr. Ashburner has exaggerated the magnitude of the evil described in his letter, as I am aware, from my own observation, that the machinery he alludes to is more destructive than any other article in use for cleaning cotton, and utterly ruins the staple, unless constant care and attention are bestowed in keeping it in proper working order. The Collector seems to think it a clause for congratulation that only 1,000 bales of cotton have been thus destroyed, but even 1,000 bales is a matter of no small moment under the conditions of our present cotton supply. I submit that the proposal of the Collector is one that, under these circumstances, seems to be deserving of the consideration of Government.

15. I have next to refer to Appendix E, which shows the number of cases in which convictions have been obtained under the Cotton Frauds Act during the past year. Of the

total number, 22 as many as 16 were obtained in the Ahmedabad Collectorate alone, the total number in the whole Presidency in the previous year having been only 8. It will be seen, on reference to the column of remarks, that in the specification of the sentences passed, the penalty of confiscation of the cotton is in some cases omitted to be mentioned. I have called upon the Inspectors to explain if the omissions are not owing to clerical mistakes in the returns submitted, as the Act makes the penalty of confiscation in all such cases compulsory.

16. Bombay will attract notice by its not being mentioned in this return. This is not, however, due to the absence of cases of fraud last year, for it will be seen from the reports of the Presidency Inspectors that many such cases did occur; but it would appear that the difficulty of obtaining convictions in Bombay is greater than even in the Mofussil. This seems to be exemplified in the only case which was sent up for trial, as mentioned in the Report of the Senior Inspector. Here the charge was dismissed for want of identification of the offender in face of the man's own admission, as sworn to by the Inspector at the trial.

17. It seems to me not improbable that the cause of the above difficulty may be that which is hinted at in Mr. Harrison's Report, though it is not fully explained; namely, that the only clause of the Act under which offenders can be brought to trial in Bombay is Section 8, which is so worded as to be calculated to create a doubt in the mind of the Magistrate as to the nature of the offence contemplated. The Section itself does not require the proof of fraud, but makes the act of simply offering adulterated cotton for compression penal, without any reference to intention. It was evidently the opinion of the framers of the Act, when introducing this no doubt stringent provision, that the prohibition against the final pressing of adulterated cotton would have the effect of re-acting upon the parties in the Mofussil by whom this adulteration is practised, in so far as it would deter exporters from dealing with adulterated cotton; and unless the Magistrate fully appreciates the importance of this object, as the prescribed penalty is very severe, he would probably be scrupulous in requiring evidence to connect the party offering the cotton for compression with the persons by whom it was adulterated. Thus, as no evidence

to ensure a conviction under such a view of the case could be brought forward in Bombay—cotton adulteration being in almost all cases effected in the Mofussil;—the difficulty of obtaining a conviction here can be estimated.

18. In Ahmedabad, the Inspector reports a very large amount of adulteration, respecting which many complaints were made to him by the local traders. These persons, though averse, like others of their class elsewhere, to resort to the Civil Courts for redress, seem to be ready enough to avail themselves of the protection of the Cotton Frauds Act. Here, however, it is rather in the position of informer, than of prosecutor, that they appear, so that in both cases there is the same unwillingness to sue or prosecute; and this is doubtless due to the fear that so direct an appeal to the law might lead the other traders to combine, in order to stop dealing with them.

19. There were in Khandeish as many as 12 cases submitted for trial under the Frauds Act, of which only two resulted in convictions. In one of these the judgment was reversed on appeal, and only one case is, therefore, entered in the returns. With regard to the cases of false packing referred to by Mr. Wilkinson, in which he states convictions could not be obtained on account of the offence having been committed in foreign territory, I fear that the failure to convict must have arisen from some other cause, as the Act contains no provision against such false packing as he refers to, wheresoever it may have taken place.

20. In the Dharwar District, which are also not entered in this return, two cases were taken up as stated in the Inspector's Report (Appendix K)—one before the District Magistrate, Mr. Robertson, and the other before Mr. Middleton, F. P. Magistrate. The proceedings have been forwarded for my perusal, and I would solicit the particular attention of Government to the latter case, and to the reason for the dismissal of the charge as given in the Magistrate's judgment quoted below :—

> "This complaint is made, under Section 2 of Act IX. of 1863, against Hoossain Sab of Hoollihalli, Ranebednoor Talooka, for fraudulently mixing cotton of different varieties in one bale.

"The Sub-Inspector, Cotton Frauds Department, went to his ginning-house on the 8th instant, and found a large quantity of mixed kuppas of different varieties in it. The gin was being worked, and Hoossain Sab himself was feeding it from the heap of mixed kuppas, thereby producing cleaned cotton containing a mixture of different varieties. Two bales of this cleaned cotton were lying in the same house. The Sub-Inspector is unable to prove that Hoossain Sab himself mixed the different varieties of kuppas. He may have bought it in this state, and as ginning mixed kuppas, so as to produce mixed clean cotton, is not prohibited by any law, I dismiss the complaint under Section 67, Criminal Procedure Code."

21. I submit that the Magistrate has here altogether missed the meaning and the object of that part of Section 2 of the Frauds Act which prohibits the dishonest mixing of cotton of different varieties. This clause was introduced into the Act with especial reference to the two varieties of cotton produced in Dharwar, and for the especial purpose of preventing the mischief which follows the mixing of those varieties by the process of ginning, which is the only means by which they can be mixed together in the sense contemplated in the Act. It is only in the districts of the Southern Mahratta Country that there are really two varieties of cotton recognizable as such, namely, the American and indigenous; all other descriptions known in the Indian cotton market being only different forms of the same variety. The mixing of kuppas of American and Dharwar indigenous cotton is a harmless act in itself. It does no damage to the cotton, and it deceives no one, as it is impossible for anybody who has once observed the difference to mistake the two varieties while the cotton is still unginned. The act of ginning the mixed kuppas, however, at once ruins the staple, whether the saw-gin or the foot-roller be employed, the former being as ill-adapted to clean the native cotton as the foot-roller is to clean the American; and it also evidences the dishonest intention of the person who resorts to this process of mixing the two varieties, by which it becomes exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to say that the cotton is mixed.

22. Such being the case, the result of the trial before Mr. Middleton is very much to be regretted, as I cannot

conceive of a case in which the provision in Section 2 of the Act, against mixing varieties of cotton, can be more decidedly or more pointedly applicable. A case of this kind, with such a result, may well suggest the reflection how difficult it must be in general to obtain convictions when a Magistrate can see grounds for the acquittal of an offender so clearly guilty. Whatever may be the defects in the wording of the Frauds Act, it certainly cannot be said in the present case that the failure to convict the offender arose from that cause. In no other part of the Act are its terms more explicit than in regard to the mixing of varieties of cotton, against which the F. P. Magistrate seems not to have been able to recognize in it any prohibition. If the language of the present Act can be understood to leave any doubt on this matter, I consider that it would be impossible to frame any law to forbid the offence with which Hoossain Sab was charged.

23. And yet that it is forbidden by Act IX. of 1863, is evident from the case in Kulladghee, wherein, as shown in the return under notice, the accused was convicted and sentenced under Section 2 of the Act. The details of this case have not yet been reported by the Inspector, but I gather from his diary that the offence was exactly the same as that of which Hoossain Sab was acquitted, and that the trying Magistrate, Mr. Monck Mason, considered that it came within the meaning of Section 2, and convicted, accordingly. Here we have two Magistrates in the same part of the country who seem to hold totally different opinions regarding the sense of the law on this point of mixing varieties of cotton. I have no doubt, however, that the view taken by Mr. Monck Mason is the correct one, and I trust it will commend itself to the approval of Government.

24. The usual difficulty with which this Department has hitherto had to contend in respect of such offences has resulted, not from any ambiguity in the Act, but from the inability of the Inspectors to offer sufficient proof of fraudulent intention. In the case tried by Mr. Middleton no allusion is made to this point. It is, however, referred to by the District Magistrate of Dharwar in the case which was tried by him as mentioned above. Here one Mullapa Hangal was charged with the same offence as in the cases before

Messrs. Monck Mason and Middleton, namely, fraudulently mixing different varieties of cotton; but the complaint was dismissed for want of proof of fraud on the part of the accused. In reference to this case, Mr. Robertson has addressed me as follows :—

> "I would take the opportunity of drawing your attention to the very great necessity of providing in the law that any mixed cotton packed in a bale should bear a stamp that it is mixed, and if it should not bear such stamp that it should be considered as mixed with fraudulent intention."

25. From the Sholapore districts two convictions are reported—one of these was decided upon after the date of Mr. Manley's Report, in which only one conviction is mentioned. In these cases the accused persons were charged, under Section 3 of the Frauds Act, with having fraudulently offered adulterated cotton for sale. It appears from the Report of the Inspector for Sholapore (Appendix L) that several other cases were submitted for trial, which he describes as "glaring instances of adulteration, namely, old and dirty cotton packed round with new." There were, as might have been expected, no convictions in these cases, and it is a matter of surprise that they were at all taken up for trial; as from his own remark the Inspector appears to have been perfectly aware that the Act makes no provision for the punishment of such an offence as the packing of old and new cotton together. Similar offences are reported to have been discovered in Sind; but instead of sending them up to the Magistrate, the Inspector took the proper course, of simply furnishing the Chamber of Commerce with information regarding them.

Inspectors' Reports.

26. There are other matters treated of in the Reports of the Inspectors, which I shall now proceed to notice.

Bombay.

27. The Senior Inspector explains the necessity of making it a rule, under Section 5 of the Frauds Act, that the managers of presses should keep a register of the names of persons offering cotton for compression. This has been already provided for in the bye-laws submitted for the approval of Government, as stated above in para. 11; but as far as the purpose indicated

by the Senior Inspector is concerned, unless the entry in the Manager's book is to be accepted as *primâ facie* evidence of the fact recorded, I do not see how it will help to make matters better than they stand at present.

28. The proposal contained in para. 17 of Mr. Harrison's Report, for making all cotton frauds cases in Bombay determinable by the Court of Petty Sessions, composed of two merchant Justices in addition to a Magistrate, is one which does not seem to be without some advantages to recommend it. The plan would probably please the mercantile community of Bombay, while it would assist the Magistrates in the summary disposal of cases under the Cotton Act.

29. In para. 25 of his Report, Mr. Harrison refers to a plan which suggested itself to me some time ago as an alternative measure to Mr. Campbell's proposed system of certificates for all parcels of cotton pressed In the event of that system not being adopted, or of its failing after a fair trial, I would with confidence recommend the plan just referred to, namely, that no bales of cotton be allowed to be exported from Bombay without bearing the stamp of this Department. This might be done without entailing any inconvenience or interference of which merchants could complain. I would limit the number of descriptive stamps to only three, to indicate those descriptions of cotton which are most used for purposes of fraud, namely, "damaged," "pickings," and "sweepings;" besides which I would have one stamp with the letters C D (for Cotton Department) to be affixed to bales containing cotton of all other descriptions.

30. Among other advantages of this plan there would be this obvious one, that the presence of a stamp would denote that the contents of the bale had been examined by the Inspector; and if any bale was afterwards found containing any of the inferior descriptions of cotton abovementioned, and not so stamped, the Inspector in whose division the cotton was pressed, and who might be easily traced by the press-mark, would be held responsible for the discrepancy, and the knowledge of this liability would stimulate the Inspecting Officers to greater vigilance in the exercise of their duties.

31. It may readily occur to a cotton merchant that a stamp containing simply the letters C D would not be suffi-

ciently distinctive, but it could be made so by the letters being surrounded with a device, and this might be such a one as would not be easy of imitation. I would add that such a measure as the one here described could be carried out at a very trifling cost and without occasioning any impediment or delay to the operations of the presses, and, should it be approved of by Government, it might be sufficient to provide for it in the bye-laws before mentioned.

32. Mr. Turner brings to notice the fact that it is in the monsoon that the greatest quantity of bad, damaged, and mixed cotton is pressed. This is a matter in which the Inspectors can do no more than send intimation to the merchants for whom the cotton is intended, when the names of such merchants can be ascertained. The cases of false packing mentioned by Mr. Turner as regards Hingunghaut, and Oomrawuttee cotton would seem to furnish additional evidence of the fact, which, however, has never been denied by anybody competent to speak on the matter, that cotton adulteration is not confined to the Bombay Presidency alone, though I have seen it somewhere stated, as an argument for abolishing the Cotton Frauds Act, that in the Central Provinces is to be found an illustration of the absence of cotton adulteration without the aid of such a law.

33. Of the two reasons which Mr. Turner gives for a smaller quantity of cotton than usual having been pressed in Bombay during the past year, I am inclined to accept only the latter, namely, the non-arrival at the usual time of the cotton from up-country, which was due to the lateness of the season. With regard to the other reason given, I would observe that full-pressing up-country is not yet carried on to such an extent as to materially interfere with the working of the Bombay presses.

34. Mr. Merritt remarks, on the condition of the Khandeish cotton, that it is better this year than in the last; and I may add that generally it has been so, though some portion of the crop was damaged by rain. It is probably to this latter that Mr. Turner refers when he makes the statement that "the Khandeish cotton is very poor this year."

35. In para. 10 of his Report, Mr. Merritt refers to a letter from the Political Agent of Kattiawar, which lately appeared in an English journal, wherein Colonel Anderson

remarked that he could not make out how rubbish and grit in cotton from that province passed the Inspector's eye at the presses. Mr. Merrit explains that the necessary precautions have always been taken at his presses, but that it is possible they may have been neglected during the temporary absence of the Sub-Inspectors. I have no doubt that when the proposed bye-laws are passed, and the inspection of all cotton passing through the presses is thereby insured, the possibility of rubbish and grit finding their way into pressed bales will be reduced to a minimum.

North and South Guzerat.

36. At the same time, as it is of great importance that this form of adulteration should be checked in Kattiawar itself—and as this cannot be done by means of the Frauds Act, which is not in force there,—it is gratifying to receive the assurance which the Inspector for Ahmedabad communicates in paras. 38 and 39 of his Report, that the Political Agent and his Assistant will do all in their power towards that object.

37. A case of gross adulteration of cotton packed in the Kattiawar territory has lately been discovered at Dhollera (paras. 40—43 of Captain Moore's Report), in which the interference of the Political Officers promises to be of the greatest value. The punishment of the offenders in this instance cannot but have the most salutary effect in teaching the people of those Native States which contribute so large a proportion of our cotton supply, that the practice of adulterating the staple, hitherto so common amongst them, can no longer be followed with impunity.

38. It is satisfactory to find that the cotton-dealers, of whom Captain Moore speaks in the 37th para. of his Report, are sensible of the benefits due to the working of the Cotton Frauds Act, and that they can offer such testimony in its favour as that, in consequence of the Government inspection now carried on, the price of churkaed cotton has risen up to that of Macarthy ginned cotton, whereas last year it was considerably below it.

Khandeish.

39. In Khandeish too, as stated by Mr. Wilkinson, the Agents of native firms in Bombay appreciate the value of Government inspection as regards the condition of the cotton which

they purchase before the maturity of the crop, and in respect of which they are powerless to protect themselves.

40. The success of the Inspectors, however, in checking the evil of cotton adulteration, Mr. Wilkinson seems to think, arises from the knowledge of the existence of the law, rather than from the sufficiency of its provisions; from its moral effect and the general impression regarding its scope, together with efficient inspection, rather than from any power which the Act itself possesses, or from any increased desire for fair dealing on the part of those who formerly resorted to such frauds. I consider that there are good grounds for this opinion, and that the same may be said of other parts of the Presidency in which the advantages of official inspection are in the same degree observable. To the causes just mentioned is attributed the fact reported by the Inspector, that in Khandeish cotton adulteration and false packing are met with to a very limited extent, even in forms not punishable by the Frauds Act.

Dharwar, &c.

41. The Inspector for Dharwar, &c., refers to a practice reported by the Sub-Inspector as having come to light in the Purusgur Talooka of the Belgaum Collectorate, that, namely, of foot-rolling Native and American kuppas together, which Mr. Blackwell describes as a more serious evil than ginning mixed kuppas. I do not, however, believe that this practice can be carried on to more than a very limited and trifling extent. In the first place, it has never before been heard of in Bombay, and there would surely have been some complaint regarding it had it been extensive enough to attract notice. Nor would the practice at all profit those who resorted to it, for, as it would require extra labour to crush the American seed in the foot-roller, the cleaning of the native kuppas would by the same process be very much retarded, as may be readily understood when it is explained that the foot-roller is nothing more than an iron rod 18 inches in length and ½ an inch in diameter, which is held under and rolled by the feet of the operator over a flat stone. This very rude instrument is, moreover, mostly in use only in the outskirts of the Collectorate, chiefly in places where but little American cotton is grown: so that whatever harm is done by it in the manner above noticed, it could hardly be such as to deserve consideration.

42. In the Collectorates named in the margin, Mr. Manley, the Cotton Inspector, remarks that, notwithstanding the weakness of the present Act, cotton frauds are gradually decreasing; although he mentions in the very first paragraph of his Report "glaring instances of adulteration," as indicating the "most common form of fraud practised in the trade at Sholapore." At Barsee, which is an important centre of the trade, Mr. Manley has seen so very little evidence of adulteration, found the merchants so alive to the advantages of purchasing and pressing good cotton, so careful for their own sakes and credit to exclude all dirty cotton from the presses, that it is natural for him to conclude, as he does, that inspection at the presses is "perfectly immaterial." I shall refer to this point more particularly in a separate communication, which I purpose addressing to Government on the question whether it is necessary to retain the services of a highly-paid Inspector in these districts.

Sattara, Sholapore, Ahmednuggur, and Poona.

43. Mr. Manley further states that at Sholapore frequent attempts have been made to press wet cotton, and that during the rains "close inspection" at the presses is necessary. This seems to strengthen the grounds upon which Government passed an order last year, directing that the Inspector of the above districts should make Sholapore his head-quarters.

44. The Inspector for Canara (Appendix M.) notices the very adulterated state in which he has found "Compta" cotton (*i.e.*, the Dharwar native cotton) brought to Compta for shipment to Carwar and Bombay. Much of it Mr. Stranack induced the local dealers to clean before it was shipped, but still, as he justly remarks, it is to be regretted that this cotton is not sent forward in a more marketable state; as, for spinners' purposes, there is no doubt much of it is quite equal to any other indigenous cotton grown in India, and it would command a much higher price than it does were admixture of it prevented and more care devoted to its preparation.

Canara and Rutnagherry.

45. It will appear from the report of the Inspector for Sind that there was a very little fraudulent adulteration of cotton in that province during the past year. In some cases

Sind.

damaged cotton was offered for compression, but it was withdrawn on the requisition of the Inspector. Mr. Hughes is evidently under a misapprehension with regard to the duty of an Inspector in regard to the pressing of damaged cotton. The Frauds Act does not prohibit the compression of such material, and I have now drawn Mr. Hughes' attention to this fact, and informed him that in future it will be sufficient in such cases if he can induce the owner, after the cotton is pressed, to stamp it as damaged.

His Highness the Hubshee's Territory.

46. The Inspector for this district belongs to the Preventive Establishment of this Department, his duty consisting in the prevention of robberies along the Coast, and the suppression of frauds on the part of boatmen in charge of cargoes of cotton. Mr. Boorhanoodeen in his Report (Appendix O.) mentions certain points on the sea-board between Bombay and Goa at which the services of a Preventive Officer are particularly necessary, in consequence of their being the usual resorts of the crews of vessels conveying cotton along the Coast. Two of these places, Chiploon and Kodia, are beyond the range of the Inspector, and provision for their inspection could not be made under present arrangements. The other two places mentioned, Karley and Borley, are within Mr. Boorhanoodeen's charge, and received, as was proper, a large share of his attention.

47. The other Preventive Inspector, Mr. Winckler, is employed on the same duty in the Nerbudda and Taptee rivers in Guzerat. A number of seizures of cotton, effected by him at different times, have been reported. These were handed over to the Customs authorities for trial, but I have no information yet regarding the results.

48. In my last Annual Report I had the honour to state that I attached much importance to this branch of the Department, and that I intended, when the proper time arrived, to submit to Government certain changes therein which I considered necessary. I do not, however, yet feel in a position to offer any proposals of this kind.

49. It is perhaps unnecessary that I should state that I have hitherto refrained from recommending any modification of the present establishment in either of its branches, as I

could not be aware what the requirements of the Department might be until the Cotton Bill, which was last year passed by His Excellency in Council, should become law. Up to this moment I have had no official intimation of the decision of the Supreme Government with regard to the Bill, and even if it were the case, as has been reported in the public newspapers, that the Bill has been vetoed by the Viceroy, I should still be unable to judge of those requirements, unless informed of the specific grounds upon which the veto was passed.

50. For these reasons I regret that I cannot now ask Government to consider any of the suggestions made in the Reports of the Inspectors regarding salaries and establishment, and that I am still compelled to withhold my own proposals on the subject. I regret this the more, because I believe that the Department might have been rendered more efficient, and have done better service, than appears on the record now submitted of the operations of the past year.

51. For reasons, which I shall presently explain, I have not thought it necessary to submit on this occasion the statement of establishment, which it has hitherto been usual to annex to the Annual Report of the Frauds Department, for the purpose of obtaining renewed sanction from Government to the continuance of the expenditure on that account. I am unable to trace on the records of this Office any order of Government requiring the adoption of this course, nor do I understand it to be the desire of His Excellency in Council to limit the sanction for the charges of establishment to any definite period. I am now engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive statement to be submitted to Government in accordance with the instructions conveyed to me in Mr. Under-Secretary Wyllie's Memos. Nos. 2,794 and 2,948 of the 13th and 22nd ultimo. As this will include all the charges sanctioned on the Cotton Improvement Fund from the beginning, it will afford the means of revision of the establishment whenever this may be decided upon by Government.

52. Meanwhile, I may observe that the scale of establishment submitted to Government last year is still the same. The vacancy in the office of Inspector for Surat and Broach, caused by the resignation of Mr. Hewett, as well as some vacancies in the subordinate establishment, have not been

filled up, as it was considered sufficient to provide for the performance of the duties by other arrangements of a temporary nature, pending the anticipated reconstruction of the Department. Those arrangements, however, do not involve any increase, even temporary, in the sanctioned expenditure of last year.

53. When Government shall have received the detailed statement above referred to, and shall have passed their orders regarding the modified scale of establishment necessary, there will, of course, be no occasion thereafter to trouble His Excellency in Council for an annual sanction, it being understood that the arrangement so ordered will only continue in force during the pleasure of Government, or pending their further orders.

The Cotton Crop.

54. Government Resolution No. 217 of the 10th January 1867, directs that, for the information of the cotton trade, two returns shall be published annually by this Department in the *Government Gazette*, the first in the month of November, exhibiting the extent of land appropriated to cotton cultivation throughout the Presidency for the current season; the other to be published in the January following, furnishing an estimate of the probable out-turn that may be anticipated, along with such information as may be available regarding the condition and prospects of the coming crop in the several cotton districts of the Presidency.

55. The return which, in accordance with the abovementioned orders, was published in the *Government Gazette* of the 22nd November last, and which was based upon figures taken from the Collector's Reports, represented that the increase extend of land taken up for cotton cultivation for the current season amounted to 784,543 acres in excess of the area of the season preceding, viz., 1868-69. These figures, however, were only applicable to the Collectorates of this Presidency, and did not include the cultivation of the adjoining Native States, which comparatively contribute so very largely to our cotton market, but from the majority of which no such information was procurable.

56. The succeeding Report was published on the 26th of January last, and, consequent upon the uniformly favourable condition which the cotton cultivation had maintained up

to that date, as ascertained by me from personal inspection, as well as from the Reports of the District Officers of the Department, I was led to form the impression which I then stated, namely, that the crop of the present season might be expected to reach the unusually large amount of two millions of bales; but, in submitting that estimate, I was careful to mention the condition to which it was subject, and that its correctness must depend upon the nature and suitability of what remained of the season up to the final gathering of the crop.

57. The above estimate, I desire once more to explain, was framed from actual figures, and these were based upon what I considered was a fair conclusion to arrive at; namely, that in the Native States which adjoined our Collectorates, but from which we could obtain no authenticated returns, any increase or diminution in the area devoted to cotton cultivation would bear some corresponding proportion to that which, under similar circumstances, had been ascertained to have taken place in our own neighbouring territory, with regard to which there were reliable statistics. Had the increase in the cotton area been confined to any one locality in our districts, or had it taken place in several localities at a distance from the Native States, this would have furnished no ground for the conclusion that there was a similar expansion in those States; but when the increase, which was noticeable throughout the Collectorates of this Presidency, had occurred in districts conterminous with Native territory, as well as in distant parts, it seemed fairly inferrible that the same natural causes which had produced this general increase here, had operated with the same result in the Native States also.

58. This much having been assumed, the next process in the calculation was to find out what that increase might be supposed to amount to in the Native States, and the first step necessary towards so doing was to arrive at some idea of the total area of land usually devoted to cotton cultivation in those States, as contrasted with that in our own territories. The only means by which this could be arrived at was by looking back to the totals of our annual exports. Our own contributions to these being ascertained (as well as the acreage of land upon which they were produced yearly), it follows that the surplus must be due to the only other existing source of supply, namely, these

Native States; and having on these data assumed the quantity so contributed by them, the area of land required to produce it in any given year was ascertainable by calculation based upon the yield per acre, which our own returns exhibited. Having thus arrived at the area cultivated throughout the Presidency, including the Native States, I was enabled to estimate the total produce which might be expected, by allowing as many pounds of cotton to an acre as the information I was at the time in possession of, regarding the condition and prospects of the crop, led me to suppose might be reasonably calculated upon.

59. It will, of course, be apparent that, upon such data as I have just described, only a rough calculation could be framed, but under no condition could any opinion be submitted of the extent to which the forthcoming crop would amount, without in the first instance arriving at some conclusion as to the area of land from which the anticipated supply was to be realized; but, even now that it has become evident that the said supply will fall materially short of the estimate then formed, in view of the other causes of failure, to which I shall have presently to refer, I think it will hardly appear that there are any good grounds for concluding that an error had been committed in the calculation of the area, or that the shortcoming of the estimate was due to any such cause.

60. Referring to the date at which the above estimate was published (viz., the 26th January last), the condition of the season (with exception of its being late) had continued in most places to be so very favourable that there was every indication of, at least, the probability of a fair average return being realized, and, under these circumstances, I considered that I was basing the calculation upon a very moderate figure when I reduced the anticipated return to 50 lbs. of clean cotton per acre of land.

61. The above, taking the general run of our own districts, good and bad, was decidedly below what even less than a moderately average crop should yield, and had matters continued to progress as favourably as they then gave promise of doing, I have no reason to doubt that my estimate would have been realized to its full extent. Since then,

however, events have been generally the reverse of favourable; a large proportion of our finest cotton districts have failed unprecedentedly, and, in some instances, have barely yielded a fraction of the supply expected from them.

62. The conclusion to which I wish to draw attention from what I have just stated is the difficulty, I may say the futility, of attempting at an early period of the season to form any reliable estimate of the amount of produce that the crop will yield, even though the area of land under cultivation can be accurately ascertained. The successful culture of the cotton plant is in all countries (but pre-eminently in India) so entirely dependent upon the weather, that almost up to the very day upon which the produce is housed there is great danger of disappointment to the cultivator. Though he may have throughout the season escaped the evil most dreaded, viz., drought, still, even after his crop has ripened, an unexpected rain-fall may, and very frequently does, blight his prospects: and these are contingencies that must be kept in view in the calculations of all parties who are largely embarked in the cotton trade, because they are such as can neither be predicted nor averted.

63. Disappointment from the causes here alluded to has not been confined to this Presidency alone as regards the estimates formed of the expected cotton crop. I have just been favoured with a copy of the Report of the actual out-turn of the crop in the North-Western Provinces,—a document which will be read with much interest by the cotton trade both here and at home, not only on account of the elaborate and complete details which it furnishes of the resources of those Provinces as regards their cotton-growing capabilities, but also from the fostering care and attention it evinces on the part of the local Government, through its Board of Revenue, towards the encouragement and improvement of cotton cultivation.

64. In the early part of the cotton season in those Provinces an estimate was formed of the out-turn which it was expected would be realized. The following extracts from the "Observations" in the Government Resolution (dated 10th May 1870), appended to the Report, shows the extent to which early-formed anticipations were disappointed, and the causes to which the failure was attributed. Referring to

the "Report by the Board of Revenue," the Resolution remarks as follows :—

"In their first Report, based on returns prepared in August and September, the Board of Revenue estimated the area under cotton in 1869-70 to have increased, in comparison with that of the previous year, from 865,000 acres to 1,118,560, and the out-turn from 512,647 maunds (of 80 English lbs.) to 966,915.

"In August and September the prospects of the crop were good, and had they continued so, an out-turn of a million of maunds (or 80 millions of English lbs.) might reasonably have been anticipated.

"But heavy rain fell in the end of September, and continued with unusual severity during the first week or ten days of October. This proved injurious, and in many quarters fatal, to the cotton crop—the flowers rotted, and the bolls fell to the ground, or failed to produce any cotton. In some districts the loss was to some extent compensated by the later flowering of the plant; but even there the loss was generally very great. The result has been that in some districts the crop was almost destroyed, as little as one-sixteenth of the quantity estimated being saved. In many of the great cotton-growing districts the out-turn was hardly a fourth, and in few of them above a half, of what was expected.

"Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the out-turn, as now ascertained, instead of being a million of maunds, is less than half a million, the actual figures being 463,800 maunds."

65. In support of what I have already stated, as to how absolutely limited we are to the means which I adopted in framing my estimate of the expected crop for this season (namely, by taking the breadth sown with cotton as the basis of the calculation), I may mention that even at this advanced period it is impossible from any available resources to offer more than what can only, at best, be designated as an approximate statement of the total out-turn that has been realized, and this I submit as follows.

66. The number of bales exported from Bombay during the past season of 1869-70 has been 1,017,290. In the same period, or since July 1869, 68,961 bales have been exported to foreign ports from Carwar and Kurrachee. Then we have a quantity of cotton which has been consumed during the season in the spinning-mills of Bombay and Guzerat, equal to about 106,000 bales; and I have just ascertained, as nearly as it is possible for me to come at the information, that there is at present in the different press-houses and godowns here awaiting compression for export about as much cotton as will furnish a further supply of 146,000 bales. To all this is to be added the quantity of cotton up-country which is still to come forward, and which, from the reports and telegrams I have just to hand from the different District Inspectors and Superintendents, would appear to be not less than 309,750 bales. It must be observed that the unusually large quantity represented as remaining up-country and in store at Bombay is entirely due to the comparative lateness of the cotton season. From the above has to be deducted what still remained in the country after the month of June 1869 of last year's crop, which probably amounted to about 150,000 bales, and the total of this year's produce, as ascertained by these means, may amount to one and a half million bales.

67. If this latter estimate should prove to be even approximately correct, in view of the unexpected disappointments which have been above detailed, and which fully suffice to account for the failure which occurred in the supplies anticipated from important districts, I think it should serve to establish the value of the process by which the earlier figures were arrived at. To supply an estimate at any period of the growing season is both a difficult and a delicate task, because, even where the area is ascertained, it involves an expression of opinion, which, though it may be backed by foregoing experience, and aided by the most careful and painstaking judgment as to the condition and prospects of the crop at the period in question, yet it must still, to the very last day, be open to chances which may cause it to mislead, and for these reasons, to speak for myself, I would not from choice venture to volunteer any such information. It was only in accordance with the wishes of Government that I did so, and, therefore, I do not think that any one, however deeply his interests may be engaged in the question, has a

fair right to complain, if, notwithstanding my having had recourse to what I believe to be the most trustworthy and reliable data to proceed upon, the results did not fully correspond with the figures that I had predicted.

68. The quantity of cotton brought to Bombay in any given year can never be correctly ascertained until means are devised for registering the number of packages at all points at which it is imported, both by sea and land. The necessity of this course was explained during the discussions in His Excellency's Council upon the new Cotton Bill, wherein I think it was at one time proposed to introduce a clause providing for the cotton imports into Bombay being so recorded. Upon a full consideration of the matter, I believe that I can arrange with the means at my disposal to obtain the required information regarding all the cotton coming into Bombay in country carts; and if the Railway authorities will supply me with weekly statements of the cotton brought by rail, and the Commissioner of Customs with similar statements relating to cotton landed at the different Bunders, I shall be able to prepare a weekly return of all such imports of cotton, which, if Government so please, can be inserted regularly in the Official Gazette, together with a statement or column showing the cotton exported during the same period. This information would be exceedingly useful to merchants, by whom, I have no doubt, it would be fully appreciated.

69. The following remarks are submitted, with reference to the return herewith forwarded (as Appendix P.), showing the area of land under cotton cultivation during the past season, and the amount of produce estimated for each of the districts therein mentioned. With the solitary exception of the small and (as regards cotton) unimportant district of Kaira, in Guzerat, there has been this season in every Zillah of both the divisions of this Presidency an increase, more or less, of the amount of land devoted to cotton cultivation in excess of that of 1868-69. In the Northern Division the most extensive increase occurred in the Collectorate of Khandeish, where it amounted to the large figure of 114,168 acres. In Ahmedabad, where for several seasons preceding a steady decrease had been observable, there was a sudden increase last year, amounting to 82,375 acres. In Broach also, where in the preceding year there had been a deficit

amounting to upwards of 36,000 acres, the increase in the season under report amounted to 70,780 acres. The aggregate increase over last year in the several collectorates of the Northern Division equalled 36 per cent.

70. A still greater increase took place in the collectorates of the Southern Division to an extent which, in the aggregate, equalled 46 per cent. in excess of the cotton cultivation of the foregoing season. In the Southern Mahratha Country alone, which comprises three important cotton collectorates, the additional amount of land brought under cotton for the season just closed reached the large figure of 419,555 acres. The most extensive increase was in Kulladghee, where it reached the amount of 204,328 acres. This latter-mentioned increase was supposed partly to be due to failure of the early-sown grain crops, which left a larger extent of land available than would otherwise have been devoted to cotton. Next in proportion was Dharwar, in which there was an increase of 135,318 acres, and in Belgaum it amounted to 79,909 acres. In the remaining collectorates of this Division, which are less important as cotton districts, the increase was respectively as follows :—In Sholapoor 50,389 acres, Poona 27,646, Sattara 22,254, and Ahmednuggur 13,894 acres.

71. It has been above explained that figured returns are not procurable from the majority of the Native States where cotton is extensively grown. Our Residents and Political Agents would all most willingly furnish such statistics, but, with exception of a few of their number, the efforts they have made to procure them have not been successful. This has been partly attributed to apathy and indifference on the part of the Chiefs themselves, who fail to perceive that any advantage can be derived from such information, at any rate in as far as their own interests are concerned ; and, accordingly, they cannot be prevailed upon to exercise that direct influence and authority over their Native Revenue Officers, which is essential to ensure any attention being paid to the careful preparation of such returns. There are also other reasons which render it more difficult to obtain such information from many of the Native States than it is in our own territory—such, for instance, as the want of so perfect a system of measurement as the records of our Revenue Survey supply ; also, from there not being the

same fixed tenure of occupancy of land, it changes hands more frequently, and the fear of having his rent increased would be a potent reason for inducing the cultivator to conceal the full extent of his returns.

72. Forming a rough estimate, it may be said that fully two-thirds of the cotton exported from Bombay is grown in Native territory, but the returns with which I have been supplied scarcely furnish details of more than one-sixth part of that quantity. All these returns, however, show that a large increase of cotton cultivation has taken place this season in each of the districts to which they refer.

73. Since the publication of the returns in the *Government Gazette*, I have been favoured by Colonel Barr, Resident at Baroda, with the first figured statement that has hitherto been obtained regarding the extent of cotton cultivation in the possessions of His Highness the Gackwar. From this statement it appears that the area under cotton in 1868-69 was 170,221 acres, while in 1869-70 it has been 183,640 acres, or 13,419 acres in excess of the previous year. The estimated produce is not entered here, as the Resident was not in possession of that information when forwarding the return; but I have no doubt that the active endeavours which have been made by him to procure it, will ensure its being available when the time shall arrive for the publication of the usual returns for the season just commenced. I am quite sensible of the difficulties which Colonel Barr has had to contend with in attempting to obtain the required particulars, and I am also aware that, when obtained, they will necessarily be very imperfect at first; but the commencement thus made will be a great advantage gained, and it will very much facilitate the collection of such information with increased correctness in future years.

74. For the first time, also, I have now been enabled to include in the return, herewith submitted, information relative to the area cultivated with cotton, and the produce expected therefrom, in the Native States of Katiawar. In these important cotton-growing districts as much as 880,617 acres is stated to have been devoted to this cultivation in 1868-69, and 1,000,654 acres in the last season, 1869-70—showing the large increase of 120,037 acres. For this information, hitherto unobtainable, I have to thank the Politi-

cal Agent, Colonel W. W. Anderson, who, I believe, has been at great trouble in procuring it.

75. I am indebted to Colonel G. S. A. Anderson, Political Agent at Kolapore, for elaborate and carefully-prepared returns relating to the cotton cultivation in that State, with the numerous Jaghirs subordinate to it. Those returns exhibit an increase on the aggregate of 74,319 acres of land devoted to cotton this season over that of last year. In the province of Cutch there has also been a very extensive increase, amounting to 71,466 acres. The State of Akulkote is under the charge of Major Baumgartner, an officer who devotes great attention to the encouragement and improvement of cotton cultivation, and, though the territory is comparatively a small one, it shows an increase of 8,585 acres over the area under cotton during the preceding year In addition to those enumerated, I have returns from the Mahi Kanta and Rewa Kanta, but these are comparatively unimportant, as the total extent of cotton cultivation in both amounts to less than 10,000 acres. In Pahlunpore, where there was in 1868-69 a breadth of 38,691 acres sown with cotton; there has been a slight decrease in the past season, amounting to 1,834 acres.

The Cotton season.

76. The injurious effects which the peculiar description and vicissitudes of the weather, during the past season, have exercised over the results of our cotton cultivation generally throughout the Presidency have varied so materially in different districts, that any idea of them can only be conveyed by submitting a short separate notice of the progress of the crop from the commencement to the close of the season in each of the more important districts; and from the description, it will be observed, that whilst in the Northern Division the loss sustained was mainly due to a cause which is of common occurrence and plainly observable, viz., unseasonable rain-falls; in the Southern Division, on the other hand, it was attributable to climatic influences, with the nature of which we are as yet but very imperfectly acquainted.

Khandeish.

77. In illustration of this I may commence with *Khandeish*, of which it may be generally said, in as far as the growing season was concerned, even up to the maturing of the crop, that it

could scarcely have been more propitious; and if the produce could only have been collected as ripened, the harvest would have been a splendid one, both as regards quantity and quality.

78. Unfortunately, however, the cotton season was comparatively a late one, and by the time that the first portion of the produce was ready for picking, which was not until the end of October, the grain crops had also ripened, and the field labour (of which the supply is always but scanty) was almost entirely diverted to the reaping of the latter. In some parts of the district a portion of the early cotton had been secured, but in many others it was left untouched, and it was not until the completion of the grain harvest (lasting till the middle of December) that cotton picking was generally resumed. In this interval an unfavourable change had taken place in the weather: heavy rain-falls and wind-storms told their tale upon the over-ripe cotton, which was blown to the ground, and much of it completely sodden into the soil beyond recovery.

79. Even after the whole of the labour was set loose for cotton picking, the supply was by no means adequate to the emergency which the accumulation of this over-ripe cotton had by that time created, for, up to the period at which I had completed my tour through the province (viz., the 12th of December), I saw in many places fields that had not even been once picked. And a short time before that, in the district in which I then was, a continuous rainfall, which lasted three days, produced effects which were deplorable to witness,—the cotton which had been washed off the plants strewed the ground as thickly as if it had been purposely spread as manure. After I had left, the weather was reported more favourable, and the last pickings were safely secured; but what I have above described will suffice to account for the stained condition in which much of the Khandeish cotton has reached our market this year.

80. In comparison with most of our other cotton-growing districts, Khandeish is sparsely peopled, and scarcity of field labour at harvest time has long been its chronic misfortune, which is becoming more felt yearly on account of the steady increase which has for some time past been going on in the extent of land taken up for agricultural purposes. In a late season like the past one, the evil is aggravated by

the fact that needy cultivators are always anxious to get the cotton that is gathered sent to market as soon as it can be cleaned, and this process withdraws from the field the best kind of labour available for the picking, namely, the services of the women, who, by somewhat higher wages, are easily induced to relinquish their field work and sit down to the more agreeable occupation of the churka; the unpicked portion of the ripened cotton being still left in the fields exposed, as abovementioned, to all the chances of wind and rain.

81. I submit these remarks in particular reference to Khandeish, because this district affords a notable example of the evil described; but the same state of matters may be met with to a greater or less extent in all parts of the Presidency. In my last published Report I suggested what appeared to me the only remedy, namely, the introduction of a simple and effective machine for cotton cleaning which would economize the vast amount of time and labour wasted on the churka, and leave a surplus of hands available for the necessary, but now neglected, operations of the field.

82. The invention of such a machine, or the adaptation to this purpose of some machine already invented, is quite within the capabilities of machinists, if their attention could only be sufficiently attracted to its importance. At present, I repeat, there is no machine in use which can be said to answer the growing requirements just mentioned. The Macarthy Gin is the only instrument which now competes with the churka, and it has often been stated, with reference to Khandeish, that the failure of this Gin is due to the difficulties attending the working of it and the keeping it in repair. From the very few places into which it has yet found its way, even if it were entirely free from the abovementioned objections, it is plain that many years must elapse before any material relief or benefit in the form indicated can be felt from it; but unless it can be introduced with better precautions than seem to have been adopted with respect to Khandeish, where, as stated in the Collector's letter above referred to, all the cotton entrusted to it (amounting to a thousand bales) was completely cut up and destroyed, it is evident that the fewer attempts of that sort that are made the better will it be for the cotton interests of this country.

83. In the Return of the "Bombay Cotton Crop," before referred to as published in the *Government Gazette* of the 26th January last, the Collector's estimate of the expected out-turn from Khandeish was 56,564 candies, equal to 113,000 bales, and under the head of "General Remarks," in the same Return, I pointed out that this quantity would indicate a yield of 82 pounds of clean cotton per acre, an amount which my observations during a tour, then recently made through that district, led me to fear would not be realized. At the same time I expressed my own opinion, founded upon what I had actually seen, that the crop (at its highest limit) might be reckoned as likely to yield an average of 66 lbs. of clean cotton per acre, which in the aggregate would amount to 91,054 full-pressed bales. It will be seen from the statement attached to the Cotton Inspector's Report (Appendix J) that the exports from Khandeish during the season, up to 30th April last, amounted to as much as 67,272 bales, while the quantity remaining in the district at that date was estimated as equal to 22,750 bales. The above information as regards the exports is corroborated by a supplementary return I have just received from the Inspector. This shows the total cotton crop of Khandeish of last season as amounting to 90,022 bales, which, it will be observed, very closely corresponds with the estimate of 66 lbs. per acre, which I was able to form from my own observation of the growing crop.

84. Guzerat has also had its climatic misadventures, but they have been trivial in comparison with those of the preceding season, and when the final returns are obtained, I expect it will be seen that it has contributed its fair quota to our cotton supply.

85. In the Surat Collectorate the sowing was late; some heavy rainfalls shortly afterwards flooded many of the low-lying fields, and where the water lodged, the growing plants were destroyed. These localities were afterwards, however, re-sown, and a tolerably fair crop was ultimately obtained from them, though, as might have been expected, it was very late in ripening. During the early months of the season it was observed that the cotton plants in the Surat districts made very slow progress, and were comparatively much more backward than those in the adjoining Collecto-

Surat.

rate of Broach; but later on they picked up well, and in the month of February the prospects were described as "very cheering, notwithstanding the unusual lateness of the season." In one respect the lateness appeared to have proved advantageous, as before the pods became matured the period had passed at which the ravages of the boll-worm had elsewhere proved most destructive, and, moreover, the heavy dews, which during the months of February and March are proverbial in the Surat districts, proved beneficial in maintaining the vigour of the plants, whilst their produce was progressing towards maturity and ripening.

86. The lateness of the season may be judged of from the fact that cotton picking was not commenced until early in March, the time by which in ordinary years the cotton season is considered as over and the whole produce secured. I am not yet in possession of any definite information as to the actual amount of the crop of this season in the Surat Collectorate, but the quality was pronounced generally good, and, not having suffered from blight or worms, it was considered superior in market value to the early picking of the Broach districts; and it was thought that it would find its way to Bombay as Broach cotton, which in ordinary seasons commands a higher price than Surat.

87. The fall of rain in the Broach Collectorate last season was fully 30 per cent. beyond the usual average; but from the steady and even manner in which it fell throughout, no floods took place, and the cotton crop suffered less from it than elsewhere, or than it might otherwise have done. The early part of the season was highly promising, and it continued so generally up to the time at which the first yield of the plants was maturing and ripening, when a change occurred in the weather which proved unfavourable. Dark and cloudy days set in, lowering the average temperature by about 8 degrees, which not only retarded the ripening, for want of the requisite sunshine, but which also appears to have favoured the production of the boll-worm, which in many localities inflicted serious injury; so that the produce from the first picking, which is usually looked forward to as the best part of the crop—at least as regards quality—proved very disappointing to the cultivator. The loss thus sustained was at the time calculated as amounting to about one-eighth of the entire crop.

Broach.

88. The sowing period had been interrupted by unexpected rain, which lasted without a break for several weeks, so that there was a subsequent distinction of the general crop into late and early portions; the former of which proved ultimately most satisfactory, as the produce escaped the attacks of the abovementioned insects, and had it not been for the damage they inflicted upon the first pickings, the total out-turn might have realized the early anticipations of the cultivators, who had fully calculated upon a yield equal to about one-sixteenth more than a full crop. The last season's visitation of locusts in Guzerat extended to several districts in the Broach Collectorate, but their numbers were few as compared with those in districts further to the north, and their stay was also less protracted; so that there was not much reason to complain of the damage they occasioned, and, such as it was, it appeared to have been entirely confined to the grain crops, for I heard no complaint of the cotton having suffered.

Ahmedabad.

89. The realized return of the cotton crop from this Collectorate for the season just closing is not yet procurable, nor will it be correctly known until the end of the year, when it will be furnished along with similar information from all the Collectorates of the Presidency; but there is every reason to believe that the crop will prove to be very close upon a full one, though it may not quite realize the early anticipations of the owners of the fields. The cultivators, in estimating the probable amount of cotton which their fields will turn out, take the rupee as their standard, the sixteen annas of which they speak of as representing a full crop. According to this mode of computation, the realized produce of the season preceding that which is now being reported upon scarcely exceeded two annas, or, in other words, was 87 per cent. below the figure of a full crop; whilst up to the very latest accounts sanguine hopes were entertained that the present crops would, at any rate, not be under 15 annas; and as this calculation is based upon the produce per acre, it being also shown elsewhere that a large increase took place in the area devoted to cotton, the Ahmedabad districts will have the credit this year of having amply contributed to our cotton supply.

90. Notwithstanding what I have just stated, all has not been contentment with the ryots. The prospects up to a late period were so very favourable, that, with apparently fair enough reasons for so doing, they calculated upon a twenty-four anna return from their cotton fields (equal to 50 per cent. over the standard); and had it not been for the unusual lateness of the season, their expectations would in many places have probably been fully realized. Up to the end of January the weather throughout had been highly favourable, and by that time in ordinary seasons much of the crop would have been ripe for gathering; instead of which, in many places, the plants had as yet but little more than flowered. In February and March cloudy weather set in and heavy dews fell in the night, accompanied by a temperature almost low enough to produce frost: the plants were thus exposed to a chill during the nights, to recover from which they had not the benefit of sufficient sunshine during the following day; and their ripening process was not only retarded, but much of their produce was nipped by the cold, causing many of the flowers and young pods to wither and fall away.

91. The foregoing description of the season is also applicable to the cotton districts of Katiawar which border on those of the Ahmedabad Collectorate; and in the more northern parts, it was not until well on in the month of May that the cotton harvest might be said to have been completed. During the process of ginning, another source of loss was revealed. In addition to the shortcoming of the realized crop in bulk, as compared with early anticipations, it was found that, owing to tardiness, or some other cause affecting the pods during the ripening process, the proportion of wool to seed was considerably below what had always been reckoned upon as the regular standard. Captain Moore, in one of his periodical reports to me of the progress and prospects of the cotton crop in his districts, describes at considerable length the results of careful inquiries he had instituted regarding this unusual deficiency, and the conclusion he arrived at was that the out-turn of clean cotton from the kuppas was five per cent. below that of a similar weight of the produce of the preceding season. The ryots accounted for this by supposing that, owing to cold moisture from heavy dews, and want of sunshine, the seeds had swollen within the closed

pods, causing tightness and deficiency of room for the development of the fibre.

92. I extract the following short summary of Captain Moore's observations upon this subject, from a letter on the prospects of our cotton crops, which I addressed to the Chamber of Commerce in May last :—

> "The ascertained effect of this has been, that in the villages of Dundooka and Dhollera, which from appearances were rated at 18 annas in the rupee, and in those of Kattiawar and Jallawar rated at 20, after gathering and cleaning, the out-turn realized only 16 annas, the weight of seed being so much greater than usual in proportion to the wool. The talooks of Duscroe and Veerumgaum give us instances, where the tested results have been as follows :—In Duscroe, the same quantity of fibre which was last year yielded from 143 lbs. of kuppas is only obtained this year from 153 lbs.; and at Veerumgaum, one hundred maunds of cotton in pod this year gave only 20 or 21 maunds of wool, whereas in former years from 24 to 25 maunds were obtained from the same weight of pod cotton."

93. It is, however, from the Collectorates of the Southern Mahratta Country that the greatest disappointment has been experienced, in sanguine expectations, which (upon apparently sufficient grounds) were at one time entertained, of a full and abundant cotton crop. In Dharwar there had not only been, as noticed elsewhere, a very large addition to the area of land placed under cotton, but up to an advanced period of the season all conditions continued so favourable, that both the cultivators and others interested in the crop, who from experience were qualified, and by practice accustomed, to form yearly estimates, arrived at one time at the conclusion that the total bulk of the cotton for export would not only be greater than that of any season remembered for many years past, but that the yield per acre would also be in excess of the average of former periods. The results have proved quite the reverse, in so far as it is now well ascertained that the total out-turn will be unprecedentedly small; the quality also will be inferior to the standard of former seasons.

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94. In *Dharwar* the sowing season was somewhat later than usual on account of the continuous wet condition of the soil from the heavy rains that had fallen; but the young plants, which were at first backward from this cause, soon began to pick up, and early in the month of November they were reported to be in a forward and flourishing condition, having derived considerable benefit from an acceptable rain-fall in October, which lasted over a week and yielded four and a half inches of rain. It was not until the early part of December that the weekly reports, which were duly reaching me, first gave notice of an unfavourable change. Rain had again fallen; but on the latter occasion it was supposed to have done harm, on account of its being immediately followed by dark and cloudy weather instead of sunshine, which is always indispensable for cotton after the ground has been well soaked.

Dharwar.

95. The first effect noticed was a check in the progressive development of the plants, which up to that time had been daily observable; soon after which they began to assume a drooping and unhealthy appearance. Towards the middle of December the first symptoms of "wind blight" were apparent, and from that time forward both the condition of the plants and the prospects of the crop may be described as having steadily passed from bad to worse up to the close of the season. The unfavourable changes as they successively occurred were duly described in the weekly reports, the details of which are much too lengthy for insertion here, but they may be shortly summed up as follows. I may premise that the visible effects of the wind blight mentioned were markedly different upon the two varieties of cotton cultivated in those districts, namely, the "Native" and "American," though its ultimate effects proved equally pernicious to both.

96. The American plants first suffered in their foliage—the leaves became dark coloured and shrivelled, assuming what was described as a "blasted appearance;" soon after which they dropped away, leaving the pods unsheltered. Of the latter, those that were most advanced soon lost their plumpness and opened prematurely, whilst the younger set "bolls" withered and fell to the ground. The produce from the former, as might be expected, proved both scanty and of

indifferent quality; so much so that, in the localities in which these effects were most severely felt, the crop may be said to have been almost entirely destroyed—the cultivators declaring that they had not gathered more than would represent two annas in the rupee. The native plant, on the other hand, maintained its foliage, and for a time gave rise to hopes that its full produce would be ultimately realized, as it is usually some weeks later than the other in ripening; but the same unfavourable condition of the weather continuing, it was found that, though the leaves had resisted the injurious influence of the blight, the pods were as amenable to it as those of the other plant, and accordingly, as soon as they had arrived at the same stage of advancement, they suffered in a similar manner and to an equal extent.

97. This "wind blight" is the bane of those Southern districts. I have seen seasons pass without the slightest appearance of it; but of late its recurrence has been more frequent, and its influence progressively more severely felt. Last year the loss resulting from it was reported upon. It may be described as the effects of a hot wind, more injurious, however, from its peculiar dryness, than from the heat which accompanies it. Its action upon the plant is direct and speedy, and no amount of moisture in the soil can avert it. This season, wherever the soil was examined, it was seen that there was an abundance of moisture close below the surface. The boll-worm had also made its appearance, as is generally observed to be the case, when the vigour and healthiness of the cotton plants have suffered from unfavourable weather during the time the pods are being matured and ripened. The above description of the peculiarties of the season in the Dharwar districts is also applicable to the adjoining Collectorates of Kulladghee and Belgaum, except that the proportion grown of American to Native cotton is much larger in Dharwar than it is in either of the other two; and as the area of land devoted to cotton cultivation in these three districts is more than equal to that of all the other Collectorates of the Presidency combined, an idea may be formed of the extent to which their unexpected failure has affected the estimates, arrived at in the early part of the season, regarding the probable out-turn which the whole of our cotton crop might be expected to yield.

98. It was anticipated that in Sind a much larger out-turn of cotton would be realized than in the previous year, both on account of the increased breadth sown and in consideration of a large proportion of the crop of that year having been destroyed by locusts late in the season. The quantity expected was 15,012 bales; but much of this has been lost—first, in consequence of the severity of the weather; then by means of the swarms of locusts which visited the province before the crop had matured. Still, I believe the amount which has been saved is about the yield of an average crop. The quantity of cotton exported from Kurrachee to Bombay and to foreign parts during the whole season of 1869-70 was equal to rather more than 70,000 bales. Most of this, however, came from the Punjaub, which usually contributes the greater part of the cotton exported annually from Sind. This season appears to be distinguished in the Punjaub, as in most other parts of the country, for the very large supply of cotton produced, and the Cotton Inspector remarks that it "bids fair to be one of the best we have had for extensive cotton exports from Kurrachee." Sind.

99. *Experiments.*—Under this head I shall first notice an experiment carried out in the Sattara District, this being the only one in the Presidency which has in the past year been undertaken by the Collector's Department. Its results are described in a report by the Assistant Collector (Mr. East), dated 5th April 1870, which has been forwarded to me by the Collector, accompanied by Statements from the Mamlutdar, to whose hands, it would appear, the experiment was entirely entrusted. Mr. East's report forms one of the documents now submitted, and it is marked as Appendix Q. After carefully perusing both the papers above referred to—namely, the Assistant Collector's Report and the Mamlutdar's Statements,—I find that on some important points they are deficient in the very information which it should have been the object of the experiment to furnish: for instance, the relative out-turn of this cotton and that grown by the native cultivators in the neighbourhood cannot be clearly ascertained from the particulars given. Certain cultivators' fields are alluded to, but in no single instance is the information such as to admit of a fair comparison; and there is no description of the weather at different periods, Sattara.

neither is there anything to indicate the relative quality of the cotton grown experimentally as compared with that grown by the ryots. Samples of the produce, which were promised by the Collector, have not yet been received.

100. The results of the experiment, in as far as they can be gathered from the information supplied, may be summed as follows :—The extent of land experimented upon was 21½ acres Irrigation was resorted to, the water being supplied from a canal which was close by. The land was black soil, varying in depth from 2½ to 6 feet. Sheep manure was used. The seed sown was Hingunghaut. It was put into the ground at the proper season, namely, in the beginning of August. The first picking began in the middle of December, and the last was completed by the middle of February. The realized out-turn is stated by the Mamlutdar to amount to 4,126 lbs. of kuppas, or uncleaned cotton, from which it is said that 1,560 lbs. of clean cotton were obtained. This last figure, however, would appear to be a mistake, unless, in this instance, irrigation had the effect of altering the usual proportion of seed to wool, which is three parts of the former to one of the latter. The return given is at the rate of 73 lbs. of clean cotton per acre; by the other calculation it would only amount to 48 lbs. per acre. But in neither can it be said that the out-turn has been large, considering the mode of cultivation resorted to. With the aid of irrigation, and the cost attending it, to be at all remunerative, land would require to yield, at least, double the amount of cotton produced by the ordinary method pursued by the ryots.

101. In alluding to the effect of the mode of cultivation employed in this case, Mr. East makes the following observation :—

> "The experiment was conducted in 21 acres 20 goontas of good black soil in close proximity to the canal, from which water was drawn for irrigation when necessary. It is to this circumstance, together with careful cultivation and high manuring, that the superiority of the crop of the Hingunghaut cotton in the experimental field over the exotic (? native) crops surrounding it, is, I think, in great measure, to be attributed."

The superiority mentioned evidently refers to the quantity of the cotton realized, not to its quality, as to which Mr. East could not form an opinion; as he adds, that, as yet, he had received no specimen of the staple.

Akulkote.

102. This is the only Native State with regard to which I have to record any cotton experiments as having been conducted during the past season. In undertaking them, the Political Superintendent has shown an earnest desire to improve the cotton cultivation of the district under his charge. At his request three varieties of seed were supplied by me last year to Major Baumgartner, namely, Hingunghaut, Egyptian, and Dharwar—New Orleans or New Orleans acclimatized at Dharwar. All these having been duly sown by him, samples of the produce of the first and last-named varieties were forwarded to me in February last, with the following remarks :—

"I regret to say that the unseasonable and heavy rain which fell during the last week in October and in December, ruined the cotton crop in these districts. Nothing could be more promising than some of the fields early in October.

"The Egyptian seed has proved a complete failure.

"The cultivators are willing to give the New Orleans seed a further trial. They admit that such cotton as that now produced was never seen in the State before."

103. The above samples were sent to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who reported upon the same as follows :—

"The sample from Hingunghaut is considered nice cotton; clean; staple, good, lengthy, rather harsh and brittle, not equal to Hingunghaut cotton.

"The sample from New Orleans seed is of good colour; rather stained; silky, even staple, rather short as compared with that known as Sawginned Dharwar acclimatized from New Orleans seed."

A detailed notice of these experiments has, I understand, been already submitted to Government in Major Baumgartner's last Annual Report. I have, therefore, only to add that I anticipate much advantage from these independent experiments at Akulkote, which it appears to be the purpose of the Political Superintendent to continue.

104. The experiments in the Khandeish district were under the general direction of Mr. Wilkinson, the Cotton Inspector, and were conducted in three different localities, namely, Julgaum, Nusseerabad, and Nimborah. Those at the first-mentioned locality were placed under the direct supervision of Mr. Jonault, Sub-Inspector, while the others were, in the same manner, entrusted to Mr. Carrel. About 75 acres of land were taken up for the experiments as follows :—

Khandeish.

	Acres.	Goontas.
At Julgaum	13	8
At Nusseerabad	36	11
At Nimborah	25	15
Total...	74	34

Regarding the rent paid for the land and its quality, Mr. Wilkinson states—

"The amount paid for the use of the land was Rs. 722, being Rs. 577 in excess of the rent which the owners pay to Government, viz., about Rs. 145.

I cannot speak in very high terms of the quality of the land, but the prices asked for the best land were so enormous, that we were obliged to content ourselves with what (though certain portions, as in Sowda, were very good) might on the average be considered of middling quality: and for this I do not think the price was unreasonable."

105. At Nusseerabad and Nimborah ordinary field manure was used; there was none put on the land at Julgaum. The seed sown was Hingunghaut, part newly obtained from the Central Provinces, and the remainder selected seed from the produce of the preceding year's experiments. Sowing was commenced on the 22nd, and completed on the 27th of June.

In the months of July and August and part of September a scarcity of rain was complained of; afterwards more of it fell than was good for the plants, and they suffered some injury in consequence. When the time for picking arrived, there was the same difficulty experienced as that which I have before stated prevailed in the district generally, namely, scarcity of labour. Mr. Jonault, however, successfully contended with this difficulty, and had all the cotton from the land in his charge brought in before the middle of December.

The fields in Mr. Carrel's charge were not so fortunate, the last pickings having been delayed. This portion of the produce was injured by rain, and had to be sold for a much smaller price than was afterwards realized for the cotton previously gathered.

106. On the whole of the area devoted to the experiments, Mr. Wilkinson states that the yield has amounted to an average of 94 lbs. of clean cotton per acre, and that some portions are estimated to have produced from 140 to 150 lbs. per acre. The causes of the difference in yield are thus explained. At Julgaum half the land had lain fallow for a considerable number of years, and, of course, produced much more than the other portion, no part of either half having received any manure. The land at Nusseerabad, though manured, was of a poor description, and that at Nimborah was infested with a noxious weed difficult to eradicate. With all this, the average of 94 lbs. per acre may be considered to be a very fair yield, and I may add that the cotton produced was generally pronounced to be of excellent quality and to be in excellent condition; the latter being the result of the great care taken in picking it, for which the chief credit is due to Mr. Sub-Inspector Jonault. The selected seed used in these experiments was obtained from a first selection. From my own observation of the fields in two of the localities, viz., Julgaum and Nusseerabad, I am able to state that the plants were decidedly superior in appearance to those of the ryots in the fields adjoining, and it was also ultimately ascertained that a larger yield was obtained from them. This will be considered satisfactory when it is remembered that the preceding season in which the seed was selected was a very unfavourable one; on the present occasion it has not been so, and for next season's experiments very fine seed has been obtained.

107. The greater part of the cotton produced from the last experiments was offered to Messrs. Nicol & Co. for disposal, with a request that they would send it to England, and obtain thereon the opinion of the spinners, who should work out the cotton. This I have now received, and it is given in the report quoted below:—

Report on three lots of East India Cotton marked severally W. N. & Co., W. N. & Co., and W. N. & Co.:—

N. I. J. N.

"5 *Bales.*—Total loss in cleaning, 12½ *per cent.*; very clean; good colour, with a little strain; very good, even, and strong staple; an excellent working cotton.

W. N. & Co.
N. I.

"3 *Bales.*—Total loss in cleaning, 11 *per cent.*; extremely clean; very good colour; staple shorter than first lot, but strong and even; good working cotton, but slightly nappy.

W. N. & Co.
J.

"5 *Bales.*—Total loss in cleaning, 11½ *per cent.*; extremely clean; very good colour; fair staple, but rather irregular; decidedly nappy; fair working cotton.

W. N. & Co.
N.

"The loss in cleaning represents the total loss in *all processes* between cotton and yarn.

"The first lot $\frac{\text{W. N. \& Co.}}{\text{N. I.}}$ is by far the best cotton, and, in our opinion, would compete favourably with up-land American."

A summary of the expenditure and receipts on account of the above experiments is attached as Appendix R.

Surat and Broach.

108. Mr. Stormont's Report (Appendix S) furnishes such full and clear information regarding last season's experiments in these districts that there is but little more left to be said with regard to them. One prominent object of the experiments of last year was, as he explains, to ascertain whether any of the exotic varieties of cotton could be successfully introduced into these districts. This question seems now to be finally set at rest by the results of these experiments, which show that the soil and climate of those parts are not suited to the cultivation of exotics, and, such being the case, further experiments with these varieties of cotton will not be necessary in as far as the above object is concerned, and future experiments will here, as elsewhere, be therefore confined to the object of ascertaining the best means of improving the indigenous descriptions of cotton. I may mention, however, that the very important matter of ascertaining how far cotton can be improved by hybridization has not been lost sight of, and that, keeping this in view, I have directed that a small piece of land (not exceeding an acre) be set apart by each of the Superintendents as a nursery, which will afford them an opportunity of continuing

the study of the habits and peculiarities of all the different varieties, and of their respective affinities for hybridizing.

109. In order to ascertain the abovementioned fact—namely, the unsuitability of the soil and climate of Guzerat to the cultivation of exotic cottons,—there could have been no better method adopted than that which was resorted to by Mr. Stormont. By having rows of native plants growing side by side with those of the exotics under trial, both were subjected to exactly the same conditions of soil and climate; so that the fact of the native plant thriving throughout and coming to maturity, whilst the exotic failed, showed conclusively that those conditions were suitable to the one description and not to the other. This result I consider may be accepted as proving beyond doubt the inexpediency of continuing such experiments with any view to the introduction of foreign varieties.

110. The last season's exotic experiments having been conducted on a somewhat large scale, their failure will sufficiently account for the small amount of produce that has been realized. This result, however, has nothing to do with the main purpose of the experiment, which was to ascertain, without reference to cost, the important question whether exotics could or could not be successfully introduced and naturalized in the above districts. The information thus obtained has, it is true, been of a negative character, but it is on that account none the less important; and I imagine it will not be disputed that the expense which has been incurred in obtaining it has been well and profitably laid out, if even the only advantage from it should be that it will put a final stop to further outlay on this account, considering the large sums which from year to year have hitherto been expended without any definite result.

111. With regard to the quality of the cotton grown by Mr. Stormont, samples of the different kinds were submitted for the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who reported on the same as follows :—

A.—Broach indigenous cotton, from selected seed, cleaned by churka.	Bright in colour; very clean; moderate staple; rather uneven, and has a woolly appearance; and the silkiness and length of staple characteristic of the best Broach cotton is entirely absent in the sample.

B.—Broach indigenous cotton, from selected seed; grown with cotton manure; machine-ginned.	Brilliant in colour; very clean; moderate staple, inferior in this respect to the better kinds of Broach cotton.
C.—Hingunghaut cotton grow at Broach, machine-ginned.	Fair colour; a little dull in appearance; pretty clean, a little leaf running through the sample; staple uneven, but pretty strong as compared with Hingunghaut grown in the districts to which it is indigenous; it is very inferior to the generality of Broach cotton.
D.—New Orleans cotton grown at Broach, machine-ginned.	Dull in colour; slight stain; staple uneven, weak, and wasty.
E.—Sea Island or Egyptian grown at Broach, machine-ginned.	Very dull in colour; brown and stain throughout; long staple, but very weak and wasty; not at all a desirable cotton.

To the above the Chamber of Commerce have added the remark, that "the sample B is undoubtedly the finest cotton," and that "the samples from exotic seed fail particularly in staple."

112. It is to the same cotton as that of which B was a sample that Mr. Stormont alludes in his Report of the 10th June, when speaking of the effect of manure upon the cotton grown by him with that aid. The only defect noticed by the Chamber of Commerce in the sample was in respect to the staple of the cotton; but there is no doubt that this arose from the cause mentioned by the gentlemen whose opinion, as that of competent judges, Mr. Stormont quotes in the 18th paragraph of his Report, namely, the injury done to the cotton in the process of ginning. In contrast to the opinion of the Bombay Chamber on the machine-ginned cotton, I would beg to draw attention to that of the Manager of the Mofussil Press and Ginning Company, to whom Mr. Stormont submitted a sample cleaned by the *Churka*, and who pronounced the staple to be "rather weak, but of good length and tolerably free from neps." I may

here notice both the subject of manures and of deep ploughing, which are referred to in Mr. Stormont's Report.

113. The desirability of using manure in cotton cultivation does not admit of being questioned, and what appears to be one of its important advantages is pointed out by Mr. Stormont in the statement, that he found the proportion of wool to seed to be much larger in cotton raised with manure than in cotton cultivated in the ordinary manner. I have before now seen the same fact noticed elsewhere, and it here receives confirmation.

Manures.

114. I have already had occasion to report that in consequence of the late arrival of the supply of fertilizers, forwarded by the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, through their Agents, Messrs. Peel, Cassels & Co., of Bombay, it became impossible to make use of it for the cotton experiments then in progress in any other form than that of a top-dressing, and, for the obvious reasons pointed out by Mr. Stormont in his Report, very little benefit could be expected from this method of applying the compost, and no appreciable results were observable; but the fields upon which the material was expended will probably give evidence of the efficacy of these manures in the next produce obtained from them, unless it may have happened that, from long exposure so near the surface, their virtues have been dissipated by the intense heat of the sun.

115. All the Superintendents of Experiments are now, however, in a position to test fully and fairly the merits of these fertilizers in their operations of the forthcoming season. His Excellency the Governor having been pleased to provide the means of so doing, by placing at my disposal a supply, amounting to ten tons, of patent manure, which he ordered to be sent up from Ceylon, and which arrived here in good time. From this supply Mr. Strachan, in Sind, has had four tons sent to him; Mr. Shearer, in Dharwar, has received two tons; Mr. Stormont, at Broach, two tons; and for the experiments in Khandeish the same quantity (two tons) has been forwarded. Captain Moore at Ahmedabad has also on hand a surplus which remained unused from the supply sent to him last year direct from Messrs. Peel, Cassels, and Company.

116. When forwarding these manures, I also sent full instructions as to the manner in which they were to be used, though, in as far as the Superintendents of Experiments are concerned, this was hardly necessary, as, from their home experience and training, they are fully conversant with the most approved methods of applying them to the soil: but in those instructions I drew their particular attention to the points upon which I considered that reliable information was most desirable, and foremost among these was the expediency of taking a careful note of the cost of cotton cultivation in this country with the use of this auxiliary, as compared with that of the ordinary method of culture now resorted to. For this purpose I directed the Superintendents to employ the fertilizer on separate spots, in different proportions, varying from a full dose to a minimum allowance; so that, by careful record and observation, both of the quantity and quality of cotton produced in each case, some useful information may be gained—first, with regard to the most profitable method of proceeding; and, secondly, as to whether, all contingencies considered, the results would be sufficiently encouraging to draw European enterprize into the field: for I fear that without some such lead it will be long before Government experiments alone will tempt even the most enterprising ryots to alter their present simple system for a more costly mode of cultivation; for they would not only take into their calculations the high price at which these fertilizers could be supplied to them in this country, even at the cheapest rates, but they would also look to the extra expense they would be put to in providing the means of preparing the land for their reception, for which purpose their present implements are quite unsuited.

117. The general impression at home appears to be that these fertilizers can be as readily and easily introduced into use in India as they were in America, and with the same advantageous results; but as this is a question of "supply," upon which it is necessary that all the information that experience has put us in possession of should be fully and unreservedly represented, I feel bound to point out that there are several very important points in which the two countries differ so materially, that, upon due consideration of them, it will be apparent that the case is not as supposed, and that the American cotton-planter has greatly the advantage of the Indian ryot, in respect to the resources at his disposal,

for availing himself of this means of improving his cultivation—not only in ensuring the proper and efficient application of this expensive material to the soil, upon due attention to which the benefit to be derived therefrom so much depends, —but also in supplying himself with materials of his own preparation, which are in all respects equal to the best of these patent manures, and which he can provide at a comparatively trifling cost.

118. The former of these involves the question of the practicability of deep ploughing in this country, for without it the best fertilizers will prove comparatively valueless. It is scarcely necessary to observe that there is no difficulty upon this score encountered in America—neither soil nor climate offer any obstacles,—and, moreover, in no country have skill and ingenuity been more successfully applied to the invention and construction of implements for facilitating and expediting agricultural operations. In India, on the other hand, even were all similar appliances available, there are conditions which so affect the soil, that when the period of preparing it arrived such implements would be found utterly unserviceable: and this remark is more especially applicable to the rich lands which are devoted to cotton cultivation. One effect of the conditions I allude to is, that they do not leave the cultivator any choice as to the period at which he may commence the preparation of his fields for the ensuing crop, and it often happens that he finds himself so limited as to time that he is obliged to hurry through the several operations with all practicable expedition.

119. The cohesion and tenacity of the richer black cotton soils are evidenced by the manner in which they get rent and cracked into deep fissures, instead of becoming pulverized by the rapid contraction they undergo when exposed to the fierce rays of the sun after the crops have been removed, and from the same cause the upper surface becomes baked and hardened into a crust, which is about as inaccessible to the plough as if it were a pavement. The cultivator has accordingly to wait until the advent of the monsoon has softened and removed this crusty impediment; and, if it should happen that the first burst are very heavy, and continuous, he is still further delayed from an opposite cause, namely, on account of his fields having become too soft for his cattle to move on, so that he has to wait for a favourable break to get rid of the surface moisture.

120. In either of these difficulties does the English plough help him. As regards the first-mentioned, the power of his cattle is not sufficient to break up the hardened surface; and, in respect to the second, the adhesive nature of the soil is such that his cattle power becomes equally unavailing; for the heavy iron plough gets so clogged that the animals are soon brought to a stand, and the implement itself, even if it could be dragged through whilst so encumbered, instead of turning a furrow, would only leave something resembling a trench or open water-course behind it. My attention was attracted the other day to an article in the *Times of India*, suggested by a letter from a correspondent in Berar, wherein a very correct description of the difficulties just noticed is given and summed up in these words:—"Even the obdurate Secretary to that august body (the Cotton Supply Association) might, we venture to say, change his mind as regards deep ploughing, &c., if he saw how unsuitable the English ploughs are to the black soil of Berar after a shower or two of rain. Then both ploughs and ploughmen succumb, and the ante-deluvian implement of the ryot is found to be the only feasible one."

121. English ploughs were freely distributed in the Dharwar districts many years ago when the American planters were engaged upon cotton experiments there. If I recollect rightly, about as many as thirty ploughs were brought out and sold at a cheap price to the ryots. They were never brought into use in the heavy cotton soils for the reasons I have given: but I believe, in some instances, the cultivators took to them for other crops in light, dry soils, where they were found manageable. A more recent illustration of the failure of the plough from the cause mentioned is furnished in the following extract from Mr. Stormont's Weekly Progress Report, dated 30th ultimo. In this case, the implement used by him is described as a "light American plough," and his object in trying it was, if possible, to gain time, by getting the land ready for his experiments, without having to wait for a fall of rain. In noticing the performance of this plough, he says—"I have tried it in various ways, but without success: the cattle are too weak for a deep furrow, and, the ground being very hard, it is impossible to hold the plough steady. It might do work in the light coloured land."

122. Reverting to the subject of the introduction of fertilizers, it will appear, from what I have just stated, that

the ryot, if using them, would at present be dependent upon his native plough, which neither turns the soil over, nor penetrates to a depth sufficient to ensure success. At the same time, I belive that it is possible to manufacture in England a cheap implement which would suit his requirements for this purpose; whilst it might please his fancy by being constructed after the fashion of that which he is now accustomed to. At the Akola Exhibition, some years ago, a plough of the description I allude to attracted my notice, and on my recommendation a prize was, I belive, awarded to it; but I have heard no more of it since.

123. As regards the second advantage abovementioned—namely, that of the American planter having at his disposal the means of cheaply preparing his own fertilizers,—I may mention that the seed of the cotton plant forms the basis of the best and most expensive patent manures for cotton cultivation that are prepared for sale, and, even without any preparation, the simple restoration of the seed alone to the soil upon which it was grown would have the effect of largely replacing the most important elements which the cotton crop has withdrawn from it. There is scarcely any other produce cultivated that would be less exhaustive of the soil than cotton, provided only the wool were taken, and the remainder of the plant, namely, the seed and stalks, returned to the ground; but where this is not attended to, the soil becomes ten times more rapidly exhausted than if it were so, on account of the large proportion of mineral matter which the seed and stalks carry away with them, as compared with the wool itself. In this country, the usual rotation observed in sowing cotton is once in three years, whereas in the uplands of America, with a comparatively poorer soil, cotton is often grown for a succession of years on the same land, and heavy crops obtained; but this practice could not be followed profitably, were it not that great care is taken to restore to the soil the mineral elements which each successive crop has withdrawn from it, and in effecting this the seed of the cotton plant itself is the chief agent employed.

124. The mineral elements above mentioned are divided in almost equal proportions between the seed and the stalks of the cotton plant, and the benefit of returning even the latter alone to the soil is not unknown to the cultivators in this country, as I have myself often seen this practised in the

Dharwar districts. The seed, however, is applied to other uses. Almost all that is not required for sowing purposes is made to serve as food for cattle, and the high prices now ruling for all such provender make it too expensive for use as manure. In some of the upland plantations in America, cotton seed has been sold at as low a price as sixpence per bushel (though, I believe, it is now rising in value, in consequence of the increased demand for fertilizers, which the strenuous efforts to increase the cotton supply have given rise to in that country). Here I have quite recently had to pay as much as a rupee per maund of 28 pounds, or about eight times the price in America, for a supply which I had occasion to purchase from ryots in Dharwar.

125. Cotton seed is, I believe, now getting into more general use in America also as food for cattle, but still its most essential elements find their way back to the soil in a very advantageous form, as all animal manures are there carefully preserved for the cotton fields; whilst here, on the other hand, that advantage is lost in consequence of cattle manure being the favourite fuel used by natives for cooking purposes. The method of preparing manure from cotton seed in America is simple and inexpensive. Alternate layers of it and stable litter are piled over each other in the open air; where the latter substance is not available, the rich alluvial mud of "river bottoms" is substituted and answers well. The seed soon heats and ferments, giving out ammonia in abundance. After standing two or three months, the heap is turned over and mixed: it is then fit for use, and, with the addition of a little bone-dust, guano, or some of the natural phosphates found in the country, which are cheap and abundant, a compost is formed quite equal to the best patent fertilizers, and at a cost far below what freight and inland carriage would alone amount to in importing them to India.

126. It must not be supposed from the above observations that I am not fully alive to the value and importance to us of both deep ploughing and the use of fertilizers as means of increasing the productiveness of the soil, and this more especially with respect to cotton culture; for though I cannot speak from the results of personal observation of the merits of either, in as far as this country is concerned, nor indeed can any one else—the matter never yet having been fairly

tested,—still the subject is one that I have had the opportunity of discussing freely with American planters whilst accompanying them over their plantations. To many of them the use of fertilizers was no novelty, and there was no reason to doubt what they said with regard to the immense advantages they had derived from it. What I desire to explain, and what, from my position, I feel called upon to direct attention to, is the inadequacy of our present means for either compassing the one, or being able to afford full scope to the general introduction of the other, of these valuable agents. In as far as a mere model-farm is concerned, where expenditure may be looked upon as a matter of trifling consideration, the chief obstacle may be readily overcome by the introduction of a steam-plough, which would at once meet all requirements; but unless the model-farm improvements are such as will admit of being generally adopted, their advantages will be confined to the precincts of the farm itself, and the question as to whether this might not prove to be the case with respect to the steam-plough is one that should not be overlooked.

127. There is no doubt that a Collector, by the power of a little persuasion, and perhaps a good deal more of coercion, may succeed in setting a steam-plough to work in the immediate vicinity of his "Hoozoor," or head-quarters; but how far would that serve towards its general introduction into the great cotton plains? This may best be judged of by considering the present condition and circumstances of any of these; and I may take Dharwar as an example. Last year's returns show that in Dharwar and its adjoining collectorate of Kulladghee there was an area under cotton cultivation not far short of a million and a quarter acres of land—the crops are usually not off the ground until April (this year cotton was even later); before the end of May the monsoon may be looked for. This leaves but a month, more or less, as the case may be, for the first deep ploughing of this vast field, which, if fertilizers are resorted to, must be completed *before* the rains set in. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the performances of the steam-plough to say how many would be required to get through this amount of work within the above time; but as I do not suppose it is to be expected that the ryot with his small holding is to provide this expensive implement for himself, any more than that the Government could be looked to for the general supply

of it, the alternative that suggests itself would be the formation of Steam-plough Joint Stock Companies, but before they could be started the prospectus would require to hold out some hope of profit; and this is an item which, I confess, I should not like to be obliged to guarantee. The Engineer (if not also the trained ploughman) would require to be retained throughout the year: this charge alone would add largely to the price that would have to be charged for the single month's work; and the question is, could that price be made sufficiently low to induce the ryot to resort to the steam-plough, he at the same time having his own field labour available? for under any circumstances he will always keep up his farm bullocks.

128. If we expect to introduce the fertilizer to any purpose, we must take America as our model, and follow that example as closely as circumstances will admit of. By the month of December the up-land planter has his land cleared of the preceding season's crop. Before January is over, his ploughing is completed for his next year's cotton; and the system most approved of is to place the fertilizer then in the soil, where it is left to remain, the sowing operations not taking place until the month of April. In India, as I have above shown, under existing circumstances, both ploughing and sowing operations have often to be got through in the short space of a week, and that also under circumstances which preclude the possibility of using the fertilizer to advantage. What we are therefore in want of is the means of breaking up the land at an earlier date, as under any circumstances this fertilizing matter must be got into the ground before the rains set in. This, I think, places our difficulty in a clear and tangible form. We have not the means of contending with it now, but they must be provided before it can be overcome; and this is the chief point which demands the consideration of those who take the lead in urging the adoption of those important measures. I have endeavoured to explain the position in which we stand as regards the general introduction of the steam-plough. If the obstacles I have indicated can be removed, it will fully meet our requirements, and the difficulty will be solved; if not, the next nearest approach to it must be sought for.

129. I repeat, that the ploughing question is the only difficulty. We have soil not to be surpassed by any country, and, putting aside the risks from our variable and uncertain

climate, there is no other requirement wanting to prevent its being made to yield the heaviest cotton crops. I say this, because I have lately observed that a writer in a Manchester paper, who represents himself as a man of fourteen years' experience in cotton growing in India, asserts, with the greatest confidence, that, without the aid of irrigation, the use of fertilizers need not be attempted in this country, and I was surprised to notice the readiness with which his opinions were accepted by parties who lay claim to some knowledge of the subject. The notions put forth in the same series of letters on other matters connected with the cultivation of the cotton plant may pass unchallenged and amuse people at home; but here, those who do know anything about it will suspect that the 14 years' experience must have led to very unprofitable cultivation. I only notice the matter, however, to prevent discouragement, by dispelling any such fear as that which the idea would give rise to, of irrigation being indispensable for the use of fertilizers in India. Notwithstanding the very positive manner in which the assertion to the contrary is put forth by the writer in question, there is one fact very evident, touching the value of his opinion, namely, that all his "fourteen years' experience" never gave him the opportunity of seeing a single acre of cotton raised by fertilizers. That he cannot have done so in *America*, where the system *is* pursued, is certain, or he would have known that the up-land planter, now almost the only consumer of fertilizers, neither wants water, nor has he the means of irrigation; yet he is successful. Neither can the said writer have seen it in *India*, for up to the present time we are without the means of even giving a fair trial to the measure. I state, without hesitation, that there are no grounds whatsoever to justify such an assertion; and I repeat my belief, that if we can follow the practice pursued in America, supposing the season to be favourable, we have every reason to calculate upon meeting with equal success.

Ahmedabad and Veerumgaum.

130. Under the sanction of Government Resolution No. 883 of 3rd March 1869, the management of the experiments in North Guzerath was entrusted to Captain Moore, and for this purpose he had placed at his disposal the services of Mr. Milne, one of the Superintendents of Cotton Experiments, then recently arrived from

England. Captain Moore chose Veerumgaum as the field for his experiments; and his Report is replete with information upon all points of importance connected with the season's operations; it is, at the same time, supplemented by Mr. Milne's own Report, which will be found appended at letter T.

131. In the last para. Mr. Milne explains the cause of his having been up to date unable to submit the detailed statement of expenditure called for in accordance with the printed forms which I have supplied to all the Superintendents; Captain Moore also alludes to this matter; and as soon as the statement is received from him, it will be submitted to Government along with those of the other Inspectors. The details of all these returns being too bulky to be printed with this Report, I have substituted a summary of each of them, and being averse to forwarding the Veerumgaum Reports without some information upon this head, I have also appended to Mr. Milne's last Report a similar statement, prepared from the vouchers for all such expenditure which have been periodically forwarded to this office.

132. Mr. Milne in his Report makes frequent use of two native expressions, the meaning of which he has at the same time not clearly defined. The terms are "*Kallia*" and "*Laria*;" and I may explain that the former, "Kallia," refers to a peculiarity in the native cotton of that district, wherein it differs from all our other varieties, inasmuch as it ripens within a close pod, and, accordingly, at picking time, both pod and cotton have to be removed together from the plant: the produce in this state is collected in large heaps in an enclosure prepared for it at every village. When first put down these heaps resemble a collection of walnuts, except that a small portion of the stalk usually adheres to each pod. After being some days exposed in this heap to the sun and weather, the pods begin to open at their apex, and become ready for the second operation, viz., that of extracting the kuppas or seed cotton from them, which is usually the work of the women, who assemble for this purpose within the "Kallia" enclosure abovementioned. It is here that the cotton gets soiled and mixed with leaf and other impurities to an extent that is said to be not always accidental. "Laria" is the term which, by way of distinction, is applied in those parts to our common native cotton, the pods of which open in the field, so as to admit of the

seed cotton being removed without the necessity of pulling off the capsule with it. There is also another native expression which is made use of both in Captain Moore's and Mr. Milne's Reports, but which is differently interpreted in each. "*Gooraroo*" is the term I allude to, and it is used with reference to the soil. Captain Moore says it means true "black earth," whilst Mr. Milne represents it as the term for light soil, consisting of a mixture of light loam and sand. If I mistake not, the latter is the more correct interpretation.

Locusts.

133. Mr. Milne complains of the damage sustained from locusts. His field engagements with them were duly chronicled at the time. Their determined inroads upon his Egyptian cotton were vigorously repelled by recourse to the discordant sounds of native music, horns, tomtoms, and pipes, aided by the waving of flags and branches of trees. These measures undoubtedly saved his produce; for judging by the performance of the very small number that succeeded in gaining admission to one of his finest fields unobserved, had a full complement effected a lodgment one hour would have sufficed to strip every tree of its leaves, though the foliage was abundant, and the plants in one field from five to six feet in height. The immunity which the native cotton enjoyed from the attacks of these insects was remarkable, considering the avidity with which they devoured the exotic descriptions, and, true to their early traditions, the Egyptian was evidently an especial favourite. Some of the swarms that passed over the country at that time were more numerous than any I had previously seen, though I have before now met with them in Sind and elsewhere. The arrival and settlement of one mighty mass was a remarkable sight. What was first observed was a sort of haze on the verge of the horizon, in a long line, as if a steamer had passed and its smoke was rising into vapour: this was some hours before the insects arrived. The cloud gradually thickened and rose higher as they approached When they got fairly overhead, the air became darkened as if night was setting in, it being yet mid-day; and the peculiar sound which accompanied their flight resembled that of the rustling of the leaves of the Peepul-tree when agitated by light winds, but it is not until they have settled down that any idea can be formed of the immensity of their numbers; and the early

dawn, before sunrise has warmed them into life and motion, is the time to witness this most extraordinary sight. In the instance I now refer to, the appearance the face of the country wore would be best described by supposing that a tolerably heavy fall of snow had taken place, only that the colour of it was a light brown, and this extended for miles, as far indeed as the eye could reach. Trees were their favourite perching ground for the night, and the manner in which they contrived to crowd upon them, piles over piles, concealing every vestige of leaf and branch, gave the trees a singular appearance. At one spot I observed that a stout and wide-spreading branch of a banyan tree had snapped at its stem from the incumbent weight of the insects.

134. Government are aware of the circumstances under which it has been found necessary to abandon the further prosecution of these experiments in North Guzerat, an occurrence which I think is much to be regretted were it only for the single misfortune of its frustrating, at least for the present, the prosecution of further efforts for the introduction of Egyptian cotton, the results hitherto obtained having been sufficiently favourable to give rise to fair hopes of final success. This unavoidable disappointment, in addition to the difficulty we have frequently had to contend with elsewhere in obtaining suitable land for these experiments, bears instructively upon a fact somewhat inconsiderately ignored by parties at home, who are so urgent in their demands that Government should at once embark in the establishment everywhere of large seed farms for the improvement of cotton; for here, with every assistance that the local Government officials could give, backed by most liberal offers of compensation even for a single season's occupation, no land could be procured. It is only in the midst of the cotton districts that the establishment of such farm would realize many of the chief objects desired from them, and in most of our best districts there are no reserved Government lands suitable for such a purpose. We are in this respect very differently situated from many other parts of India: for example, a large portion of the Central Provinces may as yet be called uncultivated waste as compared with the close cultivation in many of our cotton-producing districts. I may instance Dharwar, where I doubt whether an acre of such soil will be found without its occupant; and in these cases

Government could no more resume possession forcibly than the Home Government could seize upon the freehold estate of a proprietor in any of the counties in England—the rights and titles of the one being quite as valid and sacred as those of the other.

135. It is true that our Statutes contain an Act by which Government has the power of taking possession of any land "required for public purposes," such as roads, railways, barracks, &c.; but I doubt whether our High Courts of Legislature, if appealed to, would be inclined to look upon cotton improvement, or cotton cultivation, as belonging to the same category. In times gone by, when the terms on which the ryot held his land were liable to revision from year to year, there would have been less difficulty; but under the thirty years' lease (renewable on its expiry), which the provisions of the Revenue Survey enactments confer, the case is altered, and the Government is bound by conditions, which it not only cannot violate, but which even, were interference possible, would make recourse to it about as unwise a measure as could possibly be resorted to; for, looking at the fact that the agricultural classes form by far the greater part of the mass of our population, the preservation of their loyalty and attachment to the Government that rules over them is a matter which cannot be lightly tampered with. That loyalty would be shaken to its foundation by any usurpation or arbitrary interference calculated to destroy the confidence with which they now firmly rely upon the good faith of Government in respect to its strict observance of the compact which secures to them the perpetual possession of their land. But it may be argued that, even admitting all this, the question is still one that resolves itself into mere pecuniary considerations—in short, that money will secure land anywhere; but that this view of it is one that will not always be found to hold good is exemplified in the very case in question which has led to these observations. The ryots had taken alarm at some report which led them to fear that the law abovementioned might be ultimately resorted to, and that their fields would not thereafter be restored to them. No offer of money could therefore tempt them to risk the chance of losing the holdings, which have acquired a new value under a liberal settlement, and which have been in their families for past generations, and the possession of which their caste prejudices lead them to cherish with a feeling akin to religious veneration.

136. The remarks on the last season's cotton crop in Dharwar, submitted under the head of cultivation, apply also with equal force to the results of the extensive experiments which were undertaken in that portion of the Presidency. From the commencement of operations, up to the advanced period at which the first unfavourable check occurred so suddenly, the prospects of a successful issue appeared as highly promising as the unfruitful termination has proved (to use his own expression) discouraging to the Superintendent in charge of them. Like the case mentioned by Mr. Stormont, it shows that, even though by care we may succeed in bringing the plant to such perfection that the weight of its pods bears its branches down almost to the ground, still from some unaccountable cause a few days' absence of sunshine suffices to destroy all hope of produce from it. This only adds one more example to the hopelessness of founding calculations upon the existing appearance and prospects of the crop at any given time up to the period at which the produce has been actually harvested and secured.

Dharwar.

137. Besides this, there is another important consideration suggested by these experiences which it would be wise to keep in view, in the midst of all the excitement and agitation to which the current of past events in connexion with the cotton trade has given rise, in reference to the all-absorbing question of future supplies from India. It is this, that since the vicissitudes of Indian seasons are such as to render the chances of failure of the cotton crop so great—greater indeed, I may say, than in any other cotton-growing country in the world, —the advisability of resorting to high farming or costly cultivation becomes a very serious question to a private individual who purposes to embark in such an enterprize. The ryot, with his small holding, light rent, and equally light and inexpensive cultivation, can afford to run these risks; but a year or two of such disasters as that of the last season in Dharwar would prove ruinous to a cotton planter on the American scale, who, by dint of costly appliances and improvements had raised the producing capabilities of his land to three or four hundred pounds of clean cotton per acre.

138. Government, in their Resolution No. 3,075 of 28th ultimo, question whether it is advisable to conduct experiments in the Dharwar district with any other than New Orleans seed, and desire information on the subject. The

same doubt was expressed with regard to the expediency of extending the experiments to the improvement of indigenous seed in Government Resolution No. 2,159 of 29th May 1869; and in my reply, No. 114 of the same date, I explained that a large extent of land in the above districts was already devoted to the cultivation of the indigenous plant, which could not be entirely displaced. And I may now state, in further explanation, that in those extensive districts the nature of the soil is not uniform throughout; that a very considerable proportion, on account of its lightness and other peculiarities, is better adapted to the growth of the indigenous than of the exotic variety (much of it being, in fact, quite unsuited to the latter); and that, for this reason, the cultivation of the native plant cannot be abandoned by the ryots.

139. If the outlying territory bordering on our three Collectorates of Dharwar, Kulladghee, and Belgaum, be included, the extent of what I may term purely native cotton soil greatly exceeds that which is now exclusively devoted to the American plant (though, at the same time, there are also large tracts suitable for the latter which it has not yet reached, but into which it is gradually finding its way), while the produce of the former has its definite position in the home market under the designation of "Coomptas" (derived from the old port of its shipment). From this it will be perceived that the two distinct descriptions of cotton with which those districts supply the market, in as far as the scope for their respective cultivation is concerned, are entirely independent of each other. The continued cultivation of both is, therefore, a matter of necessity, as unless the abovementioned natural conditions of the soil could be changed, no improvement that can be effected in cultivation, either by selection or otherwise, would have the effect of making the one displace the other; though the improvement of both, as regards the quantity and quality of their produce, if it can be effected, would be advantageous both to the cultivator and the trade.

140. Mr. Shearer's observations upon the cause to which he attributes the poverty of the native plant in the poorer land, as compared with the vigour which it maintains when grown by the side of the American variety in rich black soil bear, in my opinion, very correctly upon the true merits of the case, and also indicate the measures which experience

elsewhere has proved will be most likely to provide the remedy required, namely, a change of seed for some other variety possessed of qualities which will enable it to hold its own during successive cultivation in light soils. It is only in respect to the want of this peculiar requisite that the Coompta variety has proved unsuitable. The climate in ordinary seasons agrees with it admirably, and with soil to back it, as Mr. Shearer truly states, no finer native produce can be seen in India; though it rarely gets to market in its best condition for the reasons given by him.

141. Though it has had to give way to the New Orleans plant, on account of the increased productiveness as well as the greater market value of the latter, still so well has this native plant maintained its quality in the good soils that many of the cultivators are still in the habit of growing it on a small scale side by side with the American; and the reason they have for so doing is that, though both kinds should be sown at the same time, the native is some weeks later in yielding its produce, and there is a chance of its escaping when the other may have suffered from an early setting in of the injurious dry winds, which have proved so destructive this season. Mr. Shearer shows that had it not been for the unusual and persistent long continuance of the unfavourable weather a good crop of native cotton would have been realized, as it maintained its foliage and vigour for some time after the exotic had been completely despoiled and stripped of all its appendages.

142. It is only in the lighter soils in the northern parts of those districts that, owing, apparently, to want of what I may call staying qualities, this seed has become impoverished to an extent that in some places renders a change as indispensable as it was found to be in Khandeish, and an equal benefit will be realized there if a better article can be introduced and this poor and unprofitable stuff got rid of from our market. The first substitute tried was Hingunghaut seed, which proved a complete failure, even when put into the rich soil of the southern parts (where it was not required), showing that it was not suited to the climate. Upon this being ascertained, I resolved upon trying what could be effected with Broach seed, and supplies of it were procured for Mr. Shearer. It will be seen from his last Report appended that there is a fair prospect of its proving a success.

Dharwar Factory.

143. In my last year's Administration Report, when referring to Government Resolution No. 3,508 A of 14th September 1868, in which the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council was expressed as to the necessity of restoring the Dharwar Factory to its former condition of efficiency, I promised to prepare and submit to Government certain proposals with a view to securing that object. These I had the honour to forward in my letter No. 81, dated 9th March last, and they are now under consideration. Should they meet with the approval of Government, when sanction is accorded to them they will afford what to me appear to be the only effectual means available for bringing the resources of the Dharwar Factory into full and efficient operation.

144. There is, however, one source of destruction to the Dharwar cotton with which the Factory has hitherto had great difficulty in contending, and which, I am sorry to say, the reports now reaching me tend to indicate as becoming more openly prevalent than it has ever hitherto been. The cause which is leading to this is only another phase of that to which Mr. Ashburner, Collector of Khandeish, alludes in his letter of the 13th ultimo, which I have already had occasion to refer to, when stating, in allusion to his own districts, his opinion that a very general deterioration of cotton may be anticipated. The reason he assigns is given in the following extract :—

> "The publicity given to the rejection of the Cotton Bill will have informed the native population that they may commit fraudulent adulteration of cotton with impunity, and we may anticipate a very general deterioration of cotton as the result. When this is the case, the merchants will have arrived at a more reasonable frame of mind, and we shall have no difficulty in amending the law."

145. The clause relating to the preservation of the gins in Dharwar, which was then passed by Government, would have, at least, stayed the evil which I now find cause to notice, but, like all the other measures which were at that time brought forward, it shared the hostile opposition of the merchants; whilst, in this particular case, the action taken by the Government sprung entirely from complaints which had reached it from the merchants themselves calling for

some remedy to save them from losses to which they found themselves exposed. If there was no reason for those complaints from the merchants, why was the Government troubled with them? but if there were grounds for them, one may well ask, why was the only remedy which the Government could devise to meet their demands so ungraciously received and rejected, whilst, at the same time, they did not vouchsafe a single alternative idea or suggestion to aid the Government in its desire to respond to their appeals? This, I think, is especially a case which may be left to abide the issue upon which Mr. Ashburner confides. If the mischief was so extensive before as to call forth such serious complaints, the "publicity" with which the cause of it was at that time justified and encouraged, will, if I mistake not, ere long produce results more injurious than any that have hitherto been experienced; and should this again lead to similar complaints from the merchants, it is to be hoped that by that time they "will have arrived at a more reasonable frame of mind," which may lead them to help themselves by aiding instead of thwarting Government in its endeavours to forward their interests as well as those of the trade generally.

Sind.

146. Last year's experiments in Sind were conducted in the same localities which had been chosen for the experiments of the preceding season. About 40 acres of land were taken,—20 at Khanporta, in the Hyderabad Collectorate, and the remainder at Mulleer and Jemadar-ka-Landi, in the Collectorate of Kurrachee. The experiments were under the management of Mr. Strachan, whose interesting Reports upon them (marked V) will be found among the documents appended. The first of these Reports, dated 22nd January last, has already been before Government; but, as it will be well to read this and the completion Reports together, I have added it here for convenient reference.

147. It will be seen from a perusal of these documents that various causes conspired to mar the success of the experiments, amongst which Mr. Strachan prominently refers to the visitation of locusts, and the effects of the extreme cold in January, both of which did much injury to the plants. No manure was used, as Mr. Strachan states that he had been informed that the use of manure for the cotton plant was objectionable. He, however, now combats those

objections, and appears confident of favourable results from the judicious application of fertilizers in growing cotton. At any rate, he will have an opportunity of testing their effects in the coming experiments, having been supplied, as stated above, with four tons of patent manure for this purpose.

148. Owing to the causes described by Mr. Strachan, the quantity of cotton produced from the last experiments has been very insignificant. Of the Native varieties sown, Hingunghaut produced the most, and that was only about 40 pounds of seed cotton (or 10 lbs. clean cotton) per acre. Of the exotic varieties the largest yield was obtained from Egyptian seed, and that was no more than 80 pounds per acre, which, judging from the result of a sample ginned by him, would be equal to about 30 pounds of clean cotton. Samples of the different varieties were submitted by Mr. Strachan for the opinion of the Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce, and a copy of their Secretary's letter on the subject is attached to his last Report. The Egyptian cotton was considered the best, and next to it the Bourbon; next again, but considerably inferior, the American; and last, the Hingunghaut, which, however, the Chamber pronounce to be "superior to any cotton ordinarily exported from Kurrachee."

149. Although the lands selected for these experiments were such as at first sight seemed well adapted for the purpose, Mr. Strachan's experience soon pointed out to him that they were in many respects the reverse of suitable. His representations on the subject to the Commissioner in Sind, from whom he has always received the heartiest support and encouragement, led the Commissioner to interest himself in procuring a more favourable site. Sir William Merewether accordingly, in company with the Collector of Hyderabad, and attended by Mr. Strachan, visited and selected a plot of excellent land near Halla, in that Collectorate, of the extent of 300 acres, which Government have since authorized to be taken for a cotton farm and economic garden, in accordance with a scheme proposed by the Commissioner of Sind, which I had the honour to submit to His Excellency in Council with my letter No. 131 of the 2nd May last.

150. The details of this scheme are fully set forth in Mr. Strachan's letter of 5th March last, of which, together with

the communication from the Commissioner in Sind with which it was forwarded to me, I beg to append a copy, as the reports on the experiments would not be complete without them. Part of the land has been already secured, but as some time will be required to prepare it for the experiments, only a limited extent can be brought under cultivation this season. As, however, the site has been purchased, the necessary delay for preparation is not a matter of such consequence as it would have been if the land had been only rented.

151. A peculiar interest attaches to these experiments in Sind, from the fact that this Province is different from other parts of the Presidency in respect to the means by which it is irrigated, cultivation here being largely dependent upon the water from the Indus and the canals connected with it. The land at Halla is advantageously situated in this respect, being in the neighbourhood of two canals. The reasons given by Mr. Strachan for preferring the Native method of irrigation as described by him will be read with interest. The subject is important, and I have no doubt that he will give it such attention as will enable him to speak of it more decidedly in his future Reports.

152. The Superintendent dwells much upon the necessity of improved agricultural implements as a means of better cultivation. This matter, I beg to state, has already received my attention. As stated in my Memo. No. 47 of 17th February last, Mr. Strachan was directed to submit a list of the implements which he desired to obtain, and, when this was received, a requisition for the articles was forwarded to England, whence they are expected to arrive shortly. Mr. Strachan has in the meantime been authorized to provide himself with such improved implements as he may be able to get manufactured at Halla or Kurrachee.

153. Before concluding the present notice of the measures adopted in different parts of this Presidency for improving the cultivation of cotton, I would take the opportunity of alluding to a letter which was addressed to me in July last by the Madras Chamber of Commerce, inviting my opinion regarding the best means to be adopted for the above purpose in the Madras Presidency. In that letter, a copy of which and of my reply is submitted herewith, it will be observed the Chamber express a desire to be able to submit to the

Government of Madras a decided "opinion as to the expediency of that Government departing from the strictly neutral position in which they now stand with reference to the staple, and this I have in my letter endeavoured to furnish as fully and clearly as my experience enabled me to do

Tobacco.

154. In August last, I received from the Chief Secretary a small supply of tobacco seeds of the Shiraz, Havannah, and other varieties, which had been furnished by Dr. Edward Balfour, Deputy Inspector General at Secunderabad These I was directed by Government Resolution No. 1,917 of the 11th idem to send to the Superintendent of Cotton Experiments, and to the Collectors of Kaira, Khandeish, Dharwar, and Kurrachee; and they were distributed accordingly. The quantities of all but the two abovenamed varieties were, however, too small for division, that of which there was the largest quantity, namely, Maryland, amounting only to ¼ of an ounce. The latter varieties were therefore all forwarded to one of the Superintendents, Mr. Shearer, who had had some experience in growing tobacco, having cultivated some in the previous year at the request of the Collector.

155. Except in Sind, where the soil in which they were sown has proved unsuitable, the seeds did well in the hands of all the Superintendents, who have reported very favourably upon the plants raised from them. In Dharwar all the five varieties sent to Mr. Shearer germinated, though the Maryland failed to some extent, and he has succeeded in securing a considerable quantity of seed of each variety. Of Latakhia and Nicotiana Rustica, only 20 grains each were sent to him, and the quantity has in each case been increased to 1 pound from the produce of the plants. These two varieties of tobacco, however, Mr. Shearer states, are not so much admired by the cultivators as the others, namely, Shiraz, Havannah, and Maryland, to which they give a decided preference; and their opinion is of some value, as tobacco is very extensively grown by them in that part of the country.

156. The only varieties of seed which were available for experiment at Broach and Veerumgaum, were Havannah and Shiraz. In both places the plants came up very well, and a large quantity of seed has been obtained from them. On the experiment at Broach, Mr. Stormont has submitted an interesting report, which I beg to place below :—

"The seeds arrived a little too late in the season to admit of an extensive tobacco experiment being made, as the land to be occupied requires special preparation some time previous to sowing.

"The seed was of good quality, germinated freely, and produced excellent plants in a very short time. The first transplanting was made out into a field in an open tract of land. They commenced growing vigorously, but the rains being then over, swarms of small locusts made their appearance and ate up the young plants before they had thoroughly established themselves in the ground.

"The second sowing of seed was transplanted into a more sheltered patch where it was less liable to suffer from the incursions of hungry insects. Here the progress was all that could be desired. A few slight waterings at the outset, once weeding, and once earthing-up of the plants, was all the care bestowed upon them.

"Both the varieties (Havannah and Shiraz) grew rapidly, the former producing some leaves of enormous size.

"Being entirely ignorant of the means and mode of preparing the leaf, and having no book of reference, I entrusted the first cutting to a Patel, who managed it according to the native process of curing. This lot was so strong, however, that old confirmed smokers only could manage it, a proof of its possessing more powerful narcotic properties than the ordinary country-grown article.

"About this time, a letter on the subject appeared in the *Times of India*, addressed by the Collector of Dharwar to the Revenue Commissioner. Mr. Robertson's experience of several years was given in detail, and the points of information and guidance deducible therefrom.

"I endeavoured to follow his directions with regard to producing colour, &c., so minutely and carefully, as to render successful curing a certainty, but I did not succeed at all well, as you will see by examining the samples sent to you some time ago. Of the several difficulties which presented themselves the most formidable was the management of the mid-rib, which in large leaves was extremely coarse and juicy.

"When the leaves were made up into 'hands' for the purpose of fermentation before the mid-rib was thoroughly dry, the result was invariably mould and discolouration. On the other hand, when dried sufficiently to secure against this, the lamina of the leaf became so brittle that it was crushed to powder at the slightest touch, and so wrinkled and dry that the heaps did not ferment at all.

"This exotic tobacco would, I think, succeed in any part of Guzerat. It is likewise very productive, the outturn being in this case at the rate of 750 lbs. per acre, which, calculated at 7 annas the bazaar price, native stuff, gives a total of Rs. 330 per acre.

"Could a simple and effective method be discovered for rolling, compressing, or spinning this material in a state fit for the European market, it would no doubt be found a more profitable crop than any under present cultivation."

157. There is an abundance of seed for the further prosecution of these experiments in the ensuing season in Broach, Dharwar, and Sind, and they will be carried on by the Superintendents, who are, no doubt, as observed in the Government Resolution No. 1,531 of 29th ultimo, the best persons to be entrusted with them. On the land at Halla, Mr. Strachan will have a good opportunity of trying the tobacco again, and is sanguine of success. There appears indeed to be every prospect of success in all the districts in which the experiments will be undertaken, so far as the cultivation of the tobacco is concerned, but not so with regard to the curing of it, which seems to be a matter of much difficulty. I have received from Mr. Stormont a number of specimens of the tobacco grown by him last season, and the only defect observable in them is the imperfect manner in which the leaves have been cured, and this notwithstanding the care taken by him in following the directions supplied by Mr. Robertson, Collector of Dharwar, in his letter of 7th January last, subsequently submitted to Government by the Revenue Commissioner. The subject will, however, continue to engage the attention of the Superintendents; and I am hopeful that, with the aid of Mr. Robertson's suggestions, which were offered expressly for this purpose, further experiments will lead to the discovery

of a "simple and certain method of curing tobacco in this country fit for the European market."

158. This Report has been due since the 31st of May last; and I beg now to explain that the delay in submitting it has arisen from the fact of my not having been able, until very lately, to obtain all the necessary information from the districts, the return of cotton cultivation in the Sholapore district having reached me but yesterday, and the report on the Veerumgaum cotton experiments only this morning. Much of the information required from the several districts is of a description that, in some seasons, cannot possibly be obtained at the early period fixed for the submission of this Report. In ordinary seasons this may be done; but in an exceptional one, like the present, which has proved to be a month later in almost all parts of the Presidency, the materials required for the preparation of the District Officers' returns are not available. If this report had reference to the operations of the Cotton Frauds Department alone, there would be no inconvenience in completing it at any date required; but now that the two departments, namely, that of the Cotton Commissioner and the Inspector-in-Chief, have been amalgamated, it necessarily embraces subjects connected with the cultivation and improvement of cotton which cannot be fully ascertained until the season has closed, whether it should happen to be an early or a late one. Under these circumstances, I would respectfully suggest, for the consideration of Government, whether, in future, it might not be advisable to fix the 31st July for the submission of the Annual Report of the Cotton Department. This would provide for the contingency of a late season like the present one; whilst no particular advantage to the mercantile community could be gained by submitting this document at an earlier date, as the information required by the trade would have been already published in the *Government Gazette*.

I have the honour, &c.,

G. F. FORBES,
Cotton Commissioner and
Offg. Inspector-in-Chief, Cotton Frauds Dept.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS No. 5,701.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 19th November, 1870.

Administration Report of the Cotton Department for the year 1869-70, No. 232, dated 23rd of July 1870.

RESOLUTION.—During the year 1869-70 the total receipts from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,39,249-7-3, and the total disbursements to Rs. 2,58,811-6-3.

2. There were 306 presses worked by manual labour, and 169 worked by steam-power during the year, against 294 of the former, and 171 of the latter in 1868-69. In Broach alone, the number of the former diminished from 157 to 100; and the two worked by manual labour in Sind ceased altogether, while new hand presses were re-established in the following districts:—Ahmedabad, 5; Kaira, 13; Khandeish, 1; Sholapore, 7; Surat, 45. As regards steam-presses, there was increase of one in Bombay, and a decrease of three at Broach.

3. The total number of Cotton Gins worked by steam-power was 1,341 against 1,288 in the previous year.

4. As regards the export of Cotton, there would appear to have been a falling of about 1,05,000 bales in the year under report. But, owing to the comparative lateness of the season and from other causes, large quantities of Cotton are, it is believed, still in the country. Altogether, the total of this year's produce is estimated to amount to about 1½ million bales.

5. The proposals for collecting and publishing information regarding all Cotton imported into Bombay by sea and land, and the means suggested for carrying out these proposals, are approved and sanctioned.

6. The amount of land under Cotton cultivation was 45,44,702 acres, being an estimated increase of 11,00,419 acres over the amount cultivated last year.

7. The results of the experiments in Cotton cultivation were various, and the partial failures were owing in some measure to the exceptional weather. The experiments in Guzerat having afforded sufficient proof of the unsuitability of its soil and climate to the cultivation of exotic Cotton, Government approve of the proposal to confine the

future experiments in that Province to the object of ascertaining the best means of improving the indigenous description of the staple.

8. In order that the financial result of each year's operations in the Department may be accurately seen at a glance, Dr. Forbes should append to his Annual Reports a statement showing the total actual income and disbursements on account of the year, with columns for outstandings at the commencement and close of the year for which the report is submitted.

9. For the reasons given by Dr. Forbes, the Annual Reports of the Cotton Department should be submitted on the 31st of July.

10. As regards the different matters in the Report under review on which the orders of Government are solicited, Dr. Forbes should submit separate letters, as the subjects can thus be more satisfactorily brought under the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

(Signed) H. E. JACOMB,
For Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

[True Copy.]

A. T. MOORE, Major,
Acting Cotton Commissioner and
Inspector-in-Chief, Cotton Department.

No. 63 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
31*st March*, 1871.

E. RAVENSCROFT, ESQ.,
Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour, by direction of the Committee of Management, to state, for the information of His Excellency in Council, that at a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce held on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, the following Resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That in the opinion of the Chamber, the Bombay Act IX. of 1863—known as the Cotton Frauds Act—having been found inefficient, and practically inoperative for the purpose for which it was enacted should be repealed, and that the Committee of Management be requested to memorialize the Government of Bombay to this effect accordingly."

In conformity with the foregoing resolution, I have now to hand you the accompanying Memorial from the Chamber, and to request you will place the same before the Right Honourable the Governor in Council without delay.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE;
31*st March*, 1871.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable
SIR W. R. S. V. FITZGERALD, G.C.S.I.,
Governor of Bombay in Council.

The Memorial of the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—That an Act was passed by the Council of the Governor of Bombay for making Laws and Regulations in 1863, entitled "an Act for the prevention of adulteration of cotton and the better suppression of frauds in the cotton trade in the Presidency of Bombay."

2. That the Act in question is of a more exceptional character than Regulation 3 of 1829, and Act XXV. of 1851, both which it repealed,—by making criminal certain acts done in connection with a particular trade, which are not in themselves criminal, and by putting a tax on this trade to pay the cost of the machinery called into existence for the purpose of working the Act.

3. That the Act was passed amid great differences of opinion amongst the mercantile community regarding its expediency in a time of much excitement, and during a very

exceptional state of things as regards the cotton trade, when, owing to the American Civil War, a cotton famine prevailed in the manufacturing districts of Great Britain and other parts of Europe.

4. That the exigencies of the time made a ready market for every bale of cotton that could be shipped from India to England, and in the exertions made to meet the wants of manufacturers, much inferior cotton was sent forward, adulterated in a gross form.

5. That the adulteration of cotton, in the form which was common in 1862, and the early part of 1863, had to a great extent disappeared by the time the Act came into operation.

6. That the adulteration of cotton in other and not less injurious forms still continues, but with these the Act has been found altogether powerless to cope.

7. That though your memorialists consider there has been an improvement in cotton brought to market in Bombay during the last few years, in the matter of cleanliness, and that there has been less admixture of foreign substances than in the early period of the American War, they are unable to admit that this has resulted from the operation of the Cotton Frauds Act.

8. That the best and cleanest churka cotton received in Bombay comes from districts beyond the operation of the Act, such as the Berars, Central Provinces, and certain parts of Kattyawar;—whereas some of the dirtiest and most falsely-packed cotton comes from certain districts in British Guzerat, and from Vingorla and Compta on the Southern Coast,—in which places the Act has all along been in force.

9. That the Act has proved a failure in respect to the object it was expected to serve, has been recognized by your Excellency's Government in the resolution passed on the Report of the Cotton Frauds Department for 1868-69, wherein it is stated—"That the officers of the department are unanimous in condemning the utter inefficiency of the penal provisions of the Act," and "that for Police purposes the Act may be said to be inoperative."

10. That your Memorialist, in the report of the Committee adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the

Chamber held on the 6th October last, stated that, after nearly seven years' experience of the Act, "they were unable to point to any benefit which it conferred on the cotton trade of Bombay, though it cost that trade annually more than two lakhs of rupees."

11. That with the view to amend an Act admitted by common consent to be inefficient, and as regards its penal provisions inoperative, a Bill with more stringent provisions of a penal character was introduced into your Excellency's Council for making Laws and Regulations, and passed in October 1869.

12. That His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India withheld his assent from this Bill for various reasons, but especially in reference to the penal causes, on the ground that "the Penal Code has fixed the general limits of the Criminal Law, and he (the Viceroy) does not think that those limits should be extended except for very grave reasons."

13. That your Memorialists consider special legislation for the protection of the cotton trade neither necessary nor desirable, and that no better reasons can be given for attempting to put down adulteration in cotton by special penal enactments, than adulteration in wool, seed, or any other article of produce subject to adulteration.

14. Your Memorialists therefore trust that your Excellency in Council may be pleased to relieve the cotton trade from the burden of an Act unsound in principle and in practice useless: but which, while it exists, imposes a tax on the export of cotton from this Presidency, which it can ill afford to bear in the keen competition to which the cotton from India is now subjected, in endeavouring to maintain its position as one of the chief sources of supply for the markets of Europe.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

By order and on behalf of the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce,

A. D. GRANT, Chairman.
JAMES TAYLOR, Secretary.

No. 110 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
29th May, 1871.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of 31st March last handing a resolution passed at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce for the repeal of Act IX. of 1863, known as the Cotton Frauds Act, together with a Memorial from the Chamber to His Excellency in Council praying for the repeal of the said Act, I am directed by the Committee of Management to draw the attention of Government to the Memorial, and respectfully to request an answer thereto.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
14th August, 1871.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am again directed by the Committee of Management to call the attention of Government to the Memorial from the Chamber of Commerce praying for the repeal of Act IX. of 1863, which was handed up with my letter of 31st March last, to my letter of 27th May on the same subject, and respectfully to request from His Excellency in Council an answer to the same.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX F.

IMPROVEMENT OF COTTON CULTIVATION.

No. 6,245 of 1870.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 20th December, 1870.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In forwarding the accompanying letter from the Collector of Dharwar to your address, together with the samples of cotton therein referred to, I am directed to request that you will favour Government, at an early date, with the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce on the new cotton cleaning gin, therein alluded to, as far as it can be judged by the cotton it has cleaned.

No. 2,542, dated 5th December 1870.

I have, &c.,
H. E. JACOMB,
For Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 2,542 of 1870.

Camp Hooblee, 5th December, 1870.

From E. P. ROBERTSON, Esq.,
Acting Collector Dharwar.

TO THE SECRETARY TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—Yesterday, at the request of Mr. Jones, Superintendent Dharwar Cotton Gin Factory, I attended the Factory to witness a private trial of a most valuable new cotton-cleaning gin invented by Mr. Jones.

1st December 1870.

2. As far as I am a judge of the matter, I think this new Gin far surpasses anything yet brought forward, and that it supplies a want long felt, viz., a small perfect machine that can be used by the Ryots in their own houses for cleaning both native and exotic cotton.

3. I saw several specimens of cotton cleaned, and send by Bhangy samples of the work done. The machine is only eighteen inches long, and is so simple, that it cannot possibly get out of order. It has also the advantage of being cheap, for I believe these Gins would be supplied from Rs. 50 to 65. each.

The following were the cottons cleaned :—

Description of Cotton cleaned.	Quantity in lbs.	Time.	
		Min	Sec.
Dharwar, Native	56	38	30
Broach, Native	5	3	35
Egyptian, very old and dirty	5	2	35
Sea Island, very old and dirty	5	2	0
Dharwar, acclimatised New Orleans	5	5	45
Hingunghaut, very dirty and seed unripe, so that it breaks in the hand	5	3	30

4. The machine worked with ease and in the most perfect manner possible, and it was evident to myself, and the other gentlemen who were favoured by being invited to the trial, that one of these new machines of the size of the MacCarthy, and driven by steam-power, would perform wonders in the way of rapid and perfect work.

5. Mr. Jones' invention, supplying as it does one of the greatest wants of the country, will, I feel certain, be appreciated by the public.

I have, &c.,

E. P. ROBERTSON,
Acting Collector.

No. 270 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
26th December, 1870.

TO THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under-Secretary Jacomb's letter No. 6,245, dated 20th instant, enclosing a letter addressed to the Chamber by the Collector of Dharwar, and submitting sundry samples of cotton therein referred to, on which the opinion of the Chamber was requested, more especially in reference to the cleaning of the cotton by a new cotton-cleaning gin.

In reply, I have now the pleasure to hand you, herewith, a report from the Chamber on the samples submitted, and in doing so I am to call the attention of Government to the remarks made by the Committee in their report, as regards the size of the samples and the age of the cotton used for experiments.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
26th December 1870.

Report of the Chamber of Commerce on certain samples of Cotton submitted by the Collector of Dharwar, through the Government of Bombay, for the opinion of the Chamber, more particularly in reference to the cleaning of the samples by a new Cotton-cleaning Gin made at Dharwar:—

No. 1.—Sample of Dharwar Indigenous Cotton.	Very clean, strong hard staple, not at all injured, no seed, and scarcely any leaf. Greatly superior to either the Sawginned Dharwar, or the indigenous native-ginned cotton, known as "Compta," as these cottons are at present brought to market.

No. II.—Sample of "Broach Native."	Very irregular in staple, but not injured in the ginning—very clean, no seed.
No. III.—Sample of "Egyptian."	Very much stained, some broken seed, free from leaf; staple fair in length, but rather weak.
No. IV.—Sample of Sea Island.	Very bad in colour, much broken seed; staple somewhat irregular in length, but not injured in ginning.
No. V.—Sample of Dharwar acclimatized New Orleans.	This cotton has suffered from moisture, being very bad in colour, full of broken seed, but the staple does not appear to be at all injured.
No. VI.—Sample of Hingunghaut, grown in Dharwar Districts.	Full of broken seed, much stained in colour, staple poor and irregular.

The Committee are of opinion that, in so far as the staple of the samples submitted is concerned, the Gin appears to have done its work remarkably well. The broken seed, however, found in some of the samples is a most objectionable feature, and would seriously depreciate the value of the cotton and affect the sale. The Committee have further to state that the samples submitted for inspection are much too small, and that a definite opinion on the Gin cannot well be given, without seeing very much larger samples, and if any samples are submitted hereafter they should be large and entirely of new cotton.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 241 OF 1871.

GOVERNMENT MODEL FARM,
Bhurgaum, Khandeish, 4th February 1871.

From THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVT. MODEL FARM.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to advise despatch of a parcel, per Rail, to your address containing two samples of Khandeish Hingunghaut Cotton (of the crop of 1870-71) grown on the Model Farm. I shall be much obliged if, at your earliest convenience, you will oblige me with the judgment of your Chamber on them. They are marked respectively A and B, sample B being the *first season's* crop after sowing, and sample A the *second season's* crop. The two especial points to be determined by the judgment of your Chamber are—

First, whether the Khandeish Hingunghaut now sent is inferior to Hingunghaut from Berar (its native district); and second, whether the cotton is injured by being left to give a second season's crop, or rather whether the produce of two-year old plants is inferior or superior to that from newly-sown seed?

2. I need hardly observe that should your judgment be in favour of the second year's crop a great saving of expense in cultivation may be effected wherever the land is clean enough to allow the plants to be left in after the first crop.

3. Soliciting the favour of a reply at your early convenience,

I have &c.,

V. FRETWELL,
Superintendent Govt. Model Farm.

No. 37 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
16*th February*, 1871.

V. FRETWELL, ESQ.,
Superintendent Government Model Farm,
Bhurgaum, Khandeish.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, together with the samples of cotton referred to, which were submitted to the Committee of Management of the Chamber at their last Meeting.

In reply, I have now the pleasure to hand you, annexed, the Report of the Chamber on the samples after a careful examination of the same.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
16*th February*, 1871.

Report of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on two samples of Cotton grown on the Government Model Farm, Khandeish, from Hinginghaut seed, crop of 1870-71—*Sample A being second season's crop of the sowing, Sample B the first season's crop* :—

Examined samples A and B, and find them equal as regards cleanliness and staple. The only difference observable in the two cottons is in colour. Sample A is a very bright creamy coloured cotton, having fully that silky gloss peculiar to the genuine Hinginghaut.

Sample B is also of good colour, but has lost much of the brightness characteristic of Hinginghaut.

The depreciation in colour in sample B is very marked, but we do not consider it sufficient to affect the value of the cotton very much.

A buyer would probably prefer cotton of the colour of sample A, but we do not think this would be quite sufficient reason for recommending re-planting every year.

In respect of colour and cleanliness, sample A is quite equal to genuine Hinginghaut. The staple is a trifle shorter, but if this cotton were prepared for market anything like sample A, it would sell as genuine Hinginghaut.

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 249.

GOVERNMENT MODEL FARM,
Bhurgaum, Khandeish, 20th February, 1871.

From THE SUPERINTENDENT,
Government Model Farm.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt, this day, of your letter of the 16th instant, covering the Report of your Chamber on the two samples of Hinginghaut cotton submitted to them with my letter of the 4th instant. .... The Report of the Chamber is decidedly in favour of the second season's crop, and it would appear therefore that though the "Hingunghaut," on its first removal to Khandeish may lose some of its brightness, this quality can be regained by leaving it to bear the second season when the roots have penetrated sufficiently into the soil to secure an abundant supply of silica (to which I imagine this brightness is owing.)

When I get the land of the Farm sufficiently clean to allow me to leave crops for more than one season again, I purpose following up this experiment by extensive perennial cultivation of this variety of cotton, as the Report of your Chamber fully bears out my own pre-conceived ideas on the subject.

I have, &c.,

V. FRETWELL,
Superintendent Government Model Farm.

Wardha, 13th February, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to advise you of the despatch, as per margin, of samples of cotton grown in these Provinces, and would be obliged by your favouring me with the opinion of your Chamber on the respective qualities of each.

A & B—Hinganghaut cotton grown in the Balaghaut District, 80 miles north-east from Nagpur.
C.—Hinganghaut cotton grown in the Government Seed Farm at Mudnee, 10 miles east from Wardha.
D.—Dharwar Cotton grown on Government Seed Farm.

I have, &c.,
J. NOBLE,
Assistant Cotton Commissioner.

No. 43 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
23rd February, 1871.

J. NOBLE, ESQ.,
Assistant Cotton Commissioner Wardah Valley,
Wardah.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13th instant, together with the cotton samples therein referred to.

In reply, I have now the pleasure to annex report thereon by the Committee of the Chamber.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
23rd February, 1871.

Report of the Chamber of Commerce on certain Samples of Cotton submitted by the Assistant Cotton Commissioner, Wurdah Valley, for the opinion of the Chamber :—

A.—Sample of Hingunghat cotton grown in the Balaghat District, 80 miles north-east from Nagpore.	Strong staple, but somewhat irregular in length, very much stained, black leaf, and rather seedy.
B.—Sample of do. do.	Generally good staple, stained, and black leaf.

Both samples rain-damaged. If the cottons had not suffered from the weather, they would have been a very saleable description. Sample *A* badly ginned.

C.—Sample of Hingunghat cotton grown in the Government Seed Farm at Mudnee, 10 miles east from Wurdha.	Fine strong staple, beautifully white and bright in colour, and perfectly free from leaf and seed.
D.—Sample of Dharwar cotton grown in Government Seed Farm.	Wasty and very irregular in staple —but as bright and clean as Sample *C*.

No. 2,869.

Allahabad, 27th June 1871.

FROM HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, ESQ.,
Cotton Commissioner.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose copy of a report upon the experiments in cotton cultivation, recently conducted in the Nicobar Islands.

2. The excellent quality of the cotton produced cannot fail to make those experiments of importance, and I feel sure that any information regarding them will possess a full share of interest for your Chamber.

I have, &c.,
H. RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commissioner.

No. 282.

Kanlaha, 23rd November, 1870.

From F. Ad de Röepstroff, Esq.,
Extra Asst. to Supdt. Port Blair and Nicobars,
in charge of Nicobar Islands.

To Colonel H. Man,
Superintendent, Port Blair and Nicobars.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the growth of cotton at Kanlaha in the Government Cotton Garden:—

1. In a letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, dated 21st February 1870, to your address, of which a copy is in my Office, it appears that he forwarded six bags of cotton seeds for experimental sowing.

2. On the 19th of July this seed arrived at this station; at the same time a Christian prisoner, Johnson, a Negro who had been employed in North America in cotton cultivation, came down to take charge of cotton cultivation here.

19th July.

3. Previous to the arrival of the seed some land had been cleared, but the logs were partly still lying on the ground, and it was full of stumps. The labour at disposal then was very limited, so that my predecessor, Captain Randall, had difficulty in providing men for the garden: the boatmen were, however, made to work in the cotton field as soon as they were unemployed on boat-work. By pushing the work on, six days after the arrival of the seed, on the 25th July, the first grains were on the ground.

25th July.

4. I may here mention that, previous to the arrival of the seed from Government, Captain Randall, by way of experiment, sowed some grains of cotton seed procured from one of the Nicobarese villages, and around every village cotton grows, I believe, perennial. These bushes grow up to the height of six to eight feet, with large pulps and long coarse staple.

5. The ground selected for the experimental cotton cultivation is a valley running from north to south, close to the northern side of the eastern entrance of Nancowry Harbour,

well sheltered from monsoon. The soil is polycistana clay, slightly intermixed with sand, but no stones whatever. In the lowest part of the valley there is a little water-stream, which, however, has not had its free course during the experiment on account of the logs and mouldering stems of the palms that had remained from the newly-cleared jungle; it is only now, at the time of writing this report, that by the help of elephants and manual labour that it commences to have its run; the stream emanates from no visible source, but from a little piece of swampy ground on the western side of the valley. The western side of the valley was planted first; the slope is 120 feet broad from the ridge to the little stream; the planted area is 400 feet along the ridge, 270 feet along the stream, containing 40,200 square feet, containing 1,929 plants of cotton. The eastern slope is 114 feet from the ridge to the stream, and 680 feet along the ridge containing 77,520 square feet of land, and containing 3,140 cotton plants—total plants, 5,069.

6. The first seeds were put down on the 25th July; on the 29th the first plant appeared; the first flower was observed on the 27th of August, and the first pod opened on the 8th of November.

25th July.	
29th ,,	
27th August.	
8th November.	

7. The cotton is planted in straight lines, four feet apart, *en échelon* four feet between the lines.

8. The rainfall in September was about 10 inches, but in the beginning of October the rainfall increased very much, and the seeds would not germinate during the month of October: by this time the seed had also grown old.

9. In a letter of the 11th of January 1870 from His Grace the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Viceroy, the cotton seed is mentioned as going to be despatched; that makes the seed alone nine months' old, and though the seed was obtained direct from America to England, they had by this time become old, consequently a part of the western slope, though sown, has no cotton plants: the soil in which it is sown is the polycistina clay, which is very bad, and requires to be broken up, and this process requires a great demand of labour: when it is first broken, it keeps pretty loose, but in the case of the cotton cultivation there has, at no period, been labour available to do this process satisfactorily. I may here venture a remark which, though contradicting

the opinion of men more learned and better than I, will still, I believe, be proved to be true by facts. Nearly all the geologists who have passed their opinion on the Nicobars have in strong terms pronounced upon the sterility of the clay which covers the greater part of Trinkut, Nancowry, and Camorta, and they as that where the jungle refuses to grow; where the lalang grass is the only thing that will thrive together with the *cyperacea*, "surely there Nature has clearly enough left the stamp of sterility." I venture to differ from this opinion. I do not deny but that it may be theoretically correct, but the facts do not carry it out; nearly anything will grow in polycistina clay if the soil is broken for it, but the biggest trees cannot penetrate the soil: where the big trees are found on the soil, it will be observed that the roots lay along the surface, but do not penetrate; where the soil is mixed with sand, especially on the plutonic rocks, the Nicobar jungles vie in luxuriance with any other jungle in India.

10. This difficulty of the hardness of the soil has been nearly fatal to the cotton experiment. We have no ploughs like those used in Eastern India; we have no "bukhna," and I doubt very much that these instruments would penetrate. With a little strength of men, and with only the "mammooty," it has been very difficult to prepare this ground. It has only been due to the great exertions, the energy and perseverance of the Christian prisoner in charge of the garden, that the experiment has succeeded up to this day. The cotton crops stand now, with allowance to the different dates of its being sown, in some places nearly ripe. The little bushes, 3 feet high, spread out their branches, which sink under the weight of the cotton, and, as far as I can see, the crop is most promising, and I trust that the experiment may adduce to the cultivation and colonization of these fertile islands. Of the staple I can, of course, say nothing as yet, but I trust by the next steamer that I will be able to send a little as specimens for you to judge yourself. You may find the cotton report very poor. I beg that you may excuse that it is so, but this is my first experience of cotton cultivation.

11. Allow me finally, Sir, to recommend that a strength of 20 female convicts may be sent down to collect the cotton: they would be of great use, after the cotton collection is

finished, in weeding the new cotton field, and in the gardens in sweeping and the like works.

12. If ticket-of-leave men from Port Blair, with a little money, were sent down here, and, after working in the cotton fields for one season, were given grants of land, provided with seeds, and the cotton they produce be taken off their hands at a fixed Government rate according to its quality, I do not doubt that the experiment would lead to free settlers in a short time converting the barren grass fields of Trinkut to flourishing cotton plantations. I should propose that the ticket-of-leave men stopped at and got their grants in Camorta.

No. 156 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
15*th July*, 1871.

H. RIVETT-CARNAC, ESQ.,
Cotton Commissioner, Allahabad.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge with the thanks of the Chamber the receipt of your letter of 27th ultimo, handing copy of a report on an experiment in cotton cultivation from Sea Island cotton-seed in the Nicobar Islands.

In reference to the papers enclosed, I am to point out that they give no information in reference to what has been done (if anything) with the cotton said to be indigenous—on a sample of which this Chamber reported very fully about twelve months ago.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

GOVERNMENT FARMS' OFFICE,
Sydapet, Madras, 8th September, 1871.

From THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT FARMS.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that I have to-day forwarded by banghy post a small parcel of Markham Yeo Valley Cotton for your information; and I have forwarded per book post a copy of my last Report, which I beg you will do me the favour to accept.

I have, &c.,
W. R. ROBERTSON.

No. 208 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
23rd September, 1871.

W. R. ROBERTSON, ESQ.,
Superintendent Government Farms,
Sydapet, Madras.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, together with the Report and the sample of Markham Yeo Valley Cotton therein referred to.

In reply, I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to return you their best thanks for the Report you have so kindly supplied.

The sample of Cotton is of a very superior character, alike as regards staple and colour; but we find that the samples produced on farms are no true index of the same description of cotton when grown by the ordinary process of culture followed by the ryots. The Committee would be glad to be informed as to the probability of producing cotton in quantity, equal or nearly equal to the sample supplied to the Chamber, in the district in question.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

GOVERNMENT FARMS' OFFICE,
Sydapet, 30th September, 1871.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT FARMS.

TO JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 23rd instant, and, with reference to the latter part of para. 3, regret to inform you that I do not think the variety of cotton alluded to will produce satisfactory results if left to the ordinary agricultural practice of the ryot. Improved varieties of plants, like improved varieties of animals, require better treatment than the ordinary ryot gives his crops and animals. To the non-appreciation of this fact, I attribute the ignominious failure which has in this country attended the introduction of many well known and highly appreciated varieties of cotton. As long as the present agricultural practise prevails, there is no prospect whatever of improved varieties of cotton being generally and successfully cultivated. Indeed, the ryot in adhering to the low type of cotton he now cultivates is acting with great judgment. It would be as wise to introduce the highly cultivated Shorthorn or Leicester on the farm of the ryot, as many of these improved varieties of cotton.

Once establish a better system of agriculture, and, with her soil and climate, India may produce successfully any of the best varieties of cotton.

I have, &c.,
W. R. ROBERTSON,
Superintendent.

No. 233 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
14*th October*, 1871.

W. R. ROBERTSON, ESQ.,
Superintendent Government Farms,
Sydapet, Madras.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and, in reply, am desired to return the thanks of the Committee of Management of the Chamber for the information therein conveyed.

Any information you may be able to communicate to this Chamber at any time on the subject of improved cotton cultivation, or other agricultural produce by improved agricultural practice, will be very thankfully received.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX G.

MOVEMENT OF COTTON FROM CENTRAL PROVINCES TO MIRZAPORE AND CALCUTTA.

Camp Nursingpur, Central Provinces,
7th February, 1871.

To The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce,
Bombay.

Sir,—Colonel Keatinge has lately visited the Civil Station of Nursingpur on the G. I. P. Railway.

This place is by rail 843 miles from Calcutta, and 563 from Bombay. Colonel Keatinge saw considerable quantities of cotton leaving the place, most of which had come by road from Gadarwara, also a station of the G. I. P. Railway and 28 miles nearer Bombay.

The cotton was on its way by road to Mirzapore, en route for Calcutta, in unpressed bundles on common country carts. It was stated to be the forerunner of many thousands of cart-loads that would be sent for exportation in the same manner and by the same route.

Colonel Keatinge questioned the Agent of the firm whose cotton he himself had seen on the road, and was told that the only way in which this person could account for the cotton going to Mirzapore was that Calcutta was nearer than Bombay.

I am desired to add that the Officiating Chief Commissioner cannot himself account for this apparently extraordinary course of trade, but feels that it must be a waste of power, and consequently injurious to the Provinces. I am therefore to communicate the above facts to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

I have, &c.,

J. F. MUIR,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Chief Commissior, C. P.

No. 40 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
18*th February*, 1871.

J. F. MUIR, ESQ.,
Offg. Asst. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,
Central Provinces, Camp Nursingpur.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th instant, pointing out that considerable quantities of cotton were being moved from Nursingpur on the G. I. P. line of Railway to Mirzapur en route to Calcutta, a distance of 843 miles, whereas the distance of Nursingpur to Bombay was but 563, a course of trade of an unusual character which the Chief Commissioner was unable to explain.

In reply, I am desired to express the acknowledgments of the Committee to Colonel Keatinge for calling their attention to this matter. The Committee are not aware of any local reasons that could operate in causing a movement of trade apparently so unusual, possibly the high rates of carriage by the G. I. P. Railway, as compared with those on the East India line, may have something to do with it, but in any case a point of so much importance to the trade of Bombay will be carefully inquired into.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 49 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
13*th March*, 1871.

H. P. LEMESURIER, ESQ.
Agent, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to hand you, for your information, copy of a letter received from the Secretary to the Commissioner, Central Provinces, regarding the despatch of cotton from the Nursingpur districts to Calcutta, though nearly 300 miles

further off than Bombay, which would, in ordinary circumstances, seem to be the proper market for cotton grown in the districts referred to.

The Committee are not aware of any circumstances that should affect the natural course of trade in the matter referred to, but they would be glad to receive any remarks you may have to offer on the subject.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 2,097 OF 1871.

THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY,
Bombay, 20th March, 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of of your letter of the 13th instant, with accompaniment, regarding the despatch of cotton from the Nursingpur Districts to Calcutta.

I was at Garawara myself about the date referred to in Colonel Keatinge's letter, and I had a conversation with the Agents who were sending this cotton by cart from near Garawara to Mirzapore. The reason assigned by them was that if the bullocks and carts thus occupied were not employed at that particular time in going to Mirzapore, they would be at home idle, as there was no work for them, and that the saving between sending by rail from Garawara to Mirzapore via Allahabad, or by cart via Meyhere and Rewah to Mirzapore, was equal to 8 annas a docra only, time being as of no value; and they contrived to return from Mirzapore with merchandise for Rewah and other places on the road.

Mirzapore, as the Chamber is well aware, is the mart to which all the Central Provinces produce has found its way for very many years, and the Agencies are so firmly established, the whole trade being in the hands of Hindoos, that we

cannot possibly alter the course of such trade in one season particularly as boats on the Ganges are even now competing with the East Indian Railway as carriers of Cotton from Mirzapore to Calcutta.

I was told at the same time that this cotton was intended for China, and if this statement was correct, the following singular system was at that time obtaining:—Cotton was going eastwards from Garawara for China via Calcutta, at the same time that other cotton was coming westwards from Agra for the same destination via Bombay.

I have, &c.,

H. P. LEMESURIER,
Agent.

No. 4,056.

Camp Khamgaum, 17th August, 1871.

From HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq.,
Cotton Commissioner.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In your letter dated 18th February last, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, on the subject of the exports of cotton from the Nerbudda Valley to Mirzapore, you mentioned your intention of enquiring into the circumstances of the trade taking that line.

2. May I beg the favour of your furnishing me, at your earliest convenience, with the result of the enquiry?

3. My own view is that the persons who told the Officiating Chief Commissioner of the large consignments that were likely to be sent to Mirzapore exaggerated the extent of these consignments.

4. There always has been a great trade between the Nerbudda Valley and Mirzapore. In fact, until the opening of Railway to Nagpore nearly the whole of the trade of the old Nagpore Province also was with Mirzapore and Calcutta. When I first went to Nagpore in 1862 the Bombay route

was almost unknown to the residents there. An officer who, on returning from England might have to join an appointment at Nagpore, would take the steamer from Marseilles to Calcutta and then journey *via* Mirzapore and Jubbulpore to Nagpore. Nearly all the officials were Bengal men—furniture, stores, &c., all came from Calcutta. A Bombay newspaper was hardly ever seen in the Provinces. The reason of this was that on the Bombay side we were mud-bound for a great part of the year by the cotton soil roads of the Wurdah and Pownah Valleys, whereas towards the east there was a long-established and comparatively easy line of communication.

5. The opening of the Railway has changed all this so far as the Nagpore Province is concerned, and the country is acquiring quite a Bombay complexion. But then the line to Nagpore has been open for some few years. When Colonel Keatinge wrote regarding the Nerbudda cotton, the Jubbulpore line through the Nerbudda Valley had been open for about nine months only. The weekly returns of the cotton traffic show that certainly some cotton from the valley finds its way to Bombay. That some should still go to Mirzapore is not surprising, considering that the trade has for so many years run in that channel, and that the Mirzapore Marwarees have had for generations and still have their Agents in the valley. But I am inclined to think that the trade is now setting in towards Bombay, and that the transactions with Mirzapore to which Colonel Keatinge refers are falling off, as was the case in Nagpore soon after the opening of the Railway.

6. In a short time I hope to send you some figures in support of these views. Kindly inform me as soon as possible of the result of your enquiries.

I have, &c.,

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commissioner.

No. 192 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
23rd August, 1871.

H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq.,
Cotton Commissioner,
Berars and Central Provinces, Khamgaum.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant on the subject of the export of cotton from the Nerbudda Valley to Mirzapore, brought to the notice of the Chamber by the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, in February last.

In reply, I have the pleasure to enclose herewith copy of a letter to the Chamber on this subject from the Bombay Agent of the G. I. P. Railway, which will afford you all the information that can be given on the subject; the Committee consider that Mr. LeMesurier's letter gives a satisfactory explanation of what had been observed by the Chief Commissioner, and they are farther of opinion that the white, short-stapled cotton grown in those districts of the Central Provinces and the North-West of India, which is suitable for, and principally exported to, China, will continue to find its way to Calcutta as the chief port for the export of Indian cotton to China.

Seventeen and twenty years ago about a third of the quantity of the cotton exported from Bombay went to China; all this is now changed, and, though the quantity of cotton exported from Bombay has within half the period mentioned more than doubled, the portion now exported from this port to China is an inconsiderable item in the aggregate quantity.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX H.

MEASUREMENT OF PATENT PRESSED BALES OF COTTON AND OTHER PRODUCE.

CIRCULAR.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
12th November, 1870.

I have to inform you that at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on Wednesday, the 2nd instant, it was unanimously resolved that the scheme for the measurement of patent pressed bales of cotton and other produce, which has existed as an experiment since May last, be now adopted as the rule or custom of the port in this matter, in supersession of the rules and regulations formerly in use; and I have the pleasure to annex hereto, for your information, copy of the Rules and Regulations for carrying out the scheme.

The important feature in the new system is the appointment of Public Measurers, who are stationed at the different Bunders for the purpose of measuring all patent bales offered for shipment, and to give certificates of the measurement taken, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Rule No. IX. This plan of taking the actual measurement of a certain number of bales on the Bunder by responsible Measurers, in place of allowing Dubashes to fix an average measurement—a practice which led to many abuses—cannot, it is believed, fail to commend itself to the hearty support of all concerned. The Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Company, and the Agents of all the other Steam Companies represented in Bombay, have, after an experience of some months, shown their confidence in the justice of the scheme by unanimously agreeing to allow their cargo to be measured henceforward by the Public Measurers.

To secure the complete success of a scheme promoted in the interests alike of shippers and shipowners, shippers and consignees of both ships and steamers are strongly

recommended to require as a condition on their shipping orders "Chamber of Commerce Measurement."

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the Measurement, by Callipers, upon exports from Bombay of Cotton, Wool, Hemp, and other Pressed Bales, as revised and adopted by the Chamber of Commerce at a Special General Meeting held on Wednesday, the 2nd November, 1870.

I. That Callipers shall from time to time be submitted to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and, if found correct, shall be branded with a stamp bearing the name of the Chamber to indicate the same.

II. That if, from use or otherwise, any Calliper should get out of order and be objected to, the party objecting shall send the Callipers to the Chamber for examination, and, should the objection be valid, the Chamber stamp shall be defaced by the Secretary. If, however, the objection is found to be groundless, the Secretary shall give a note to that effect, and the party objecting shall be bound by his decision.

III. That any Callipers found incorrect, and on which the stamp has been defaced, may be re-stamped after adjustment.

IV. That no measurements shall be held good except such as are taken by Callipers bearing the Chamber's stamp.

V. That Public Measurers shall be appointed under the authority of the Chamber of Commerce, and stationed at the different Bunders to measure pressed bales of cotton, wool, hemp, and other merchandise.

VI. That a fee, the amount of which shall in no case exceed half an anna per bale, but which may be regulated by the Chamber from time to time in order to meet the expenses of the necessary establishment, shall be levied on all bales measured by the duly appointed Measurers.

VII. That no bales be measured without the production of the Custom House Pass bearing the endorsement of the Measurement Fee Clerk to the effect that the fee has been paid.

VIII. That the Measurers shall measure not less than five bales in every hundred, ascertaining the length of the bale and the greatest width and depth over the lashings, and as near the centre of the bale as possible, but not over the knots.

IX. That the Measurer shall give a certificate of measurement, which must accompany the bales to the ship or steamer, and shall furnish the shipper with a copy thereof. This certificate, which shall be retained by the ship, shall state—

The date and hour of measurement.	The name of the ship or steamer.
The number of the boat.	The number of bales.
The name of the Tindal.	The marks of the bales.
The name of the Shipper.	The measurement.

X. That the shipper shall, if required in writing, give the Agent of the ship or steamer notice, in writing, of the time when, and the name of the Bunder on which his bales will be measured, in order that the ship or steamer may be represented.

XI. That the bales shall be alongside the ship or steamer within 36 hours after measurement, weather permitting, or the certificate shall be void, and the bales shall be re-measured on board, written notice, however, in such case being given to the shipper so that he may have the option of attending.

XII. That the salaries of the Measurers, and all other expenses connected with this scheme of measurement, be paid by the Chamber from the Fee Fund raised under these rules.

XIII. That a Special Committee of two Members of the Chamber be appointed by the General Committee, into whose charge shall be placed all matters pertaining to the measurement of cotton, as defined above, including the appointment of the Measurers, the fixing of their salaries, the payment of the same, and the doing of all things necessary for a proper and economical working of the scheme. That in case of any difference between the two Members of the Committee, the matter in question shall be decided by the General Committee of the Chamber.

No. 249 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
4th November, 1870.

J. K. BYTHELL, ESQ.
G. A. KITTREDGE, ESQ.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to request you will do them the favour to form yourselves into the Special Committee of two members to manage the scheme of Measurement for Patent Pressed Bales, adopted by the Chamber at the Special General Meeting held on Wednesday last, the 2nd instant, and perform the duties of the said Committee, as set forth in Clause XIII. of the Regulations adopted on the occasion referred to.

I remain, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

Bombay, 8th November, 1870.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of 5th inst., informing us that we have been appointed to act as a Committee to take charge of the Public Measurement Scheme on behalf of the Chamber, we beg to hereby signify our acceptance of the "office."

We are, &c.,

J. K. BYTHELL,
G. A. KITTREDGE.

APPENDIX I.

SAMPLES OF PRODUCE.

No. 1,763 of 1871.

Akola, 4th April, 1871.

From The Deputy Commissioner,
Akola District.

To James Taylor, Esq.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I have forwarded to you some samples of Cotton and other produce of the Government Farm at Sheagaum, a list of which is sent herewith. I have no doubt some of them will be of interest to your Chamber, and I should be obliged if you would kindly favour me with your opinion on those which you consider are worthy of report. I would desire to direct your attention to the two samples of fibre. The "Ambaree" is a low quality of jute, but is perhaps sufficiently good for the purpose of making cotton bags.

The other fibre is extracted from the stems of the cotton plant, and I should be glad to know if you think it could be turned to any account.

I have, &c.,
J. HUDLESTON,
Deputy Commissioner, Akola District.

Memorandum of Produce of the Government Experimental Farm, Sheagaum, sent to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

No.	Cotton.
1	Hingunghat.
2	Punnee.
3	Jurree.
4	Dharwar.
5	New Orleans 2 years' growth.)
6	Do. (grown from fresh seed.)

No.	Grain.
7	Wheat.
8	Safflower Seed.
9	Jowaree Heermalt.
10	Do. Pulmanee.
11	Do. Gunjab.
12	Do. Daleab.
13	Do. Adgarh.
14	Oodid.
15	Peas.
16	Muth.
17	Bajree.
18	Gram.
19	Moog.
20	Lakh.
21	Coriander.
22	Linseed.
23	Sun or "Ambaree" fibre.
24	Fibre of the Cotton plant.

J. HUDLESTON,
Deputy Commissioner.

No. 97 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
10*th May*, 1871.

To THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
Berar, Akola District, Akola.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of 4th ultimo, I have now the honour to annex, herewith, the Report of the Chamber on the various samples of cotton contained in the box of produce samples received with your letter under acknowledgment.

You will observe that the report gives a most favourable opinion of cotton sample No. 1, called Hingunghat, which the Committee consider superior to any sample of Hingunghat they have ever seen offered for sale; and they would be glad to know whether there is any probability of cotton of this character being produced in quantity. Reports on samples from experiments on a small scale, and under what may be considered garden cultivation, are of little practical use, and are apt to mislead altogether, when similar results cannot be obtained on a large scale under the ordinary conditions of culture.

Regarding the two samples of fibre forwarded, I am to state that the sample from the cotton plant is so inferior as to have no commercial value here; the Ambaree sample is a much better description of fibre, but still inferior to the "Sun" fibre grown in the Southern Konkan and the Malabar Coast, with which Bombay is plentifully supplied; and the Committee consider it would not be found suitable for cotton bags, as you suppose, though no doubt it has some value, and would be saleable here at a low price.

In reference to the samples of seed and grain, the Committee have no special remarks to make. They seem similar to the descriptions of the same kind of produce in the Bombay bazaars, but in several instances the quality seemed inferior.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

10*th May*, 1871.

Report of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the undermentioned Samples of Cotton, stated to be the produce of the Government Experimental Farm, and submitted for opinion by the Deputy Commissioner, Akola Districts:—

No. 1—Hinginghat	.....Very fine color, staple fine, long and very strong. This cotton is superior to genuine Hinginghat in every respect.
No. 2—Bunnee	.....Very good color, staple fine and strong, but a little uneven.
No. 3—Jurrec	.....Good color, fine staple, but hardly equal to No. 2.
No. 4—Dharwar	.....Good color and clean, staple soft and weak.
No. 5—New Orleans, 2 years' growth in India.	Good white color, staple fine but irregular and rather weak.
No. 6—New Orleans, grown from fresh seed.	Good white color, staple fine, and fair length but deficient in strength.

APPENDIX J.

OBJECTIONABLE CLAUSES IN STEAMER BILLS OF LADING.

Bombay, 31*st March* 1871.

JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—We beg to inquire if anything has been done by the Committee in the matter of the clause in Steamer Bills of Lading, reading "Ship lost or not lost."

We would also call the attention of the Committee to the right claimed by the owners in a clause on the Bill of Lading given out by some steamers (see "Atalanta" and "Durham") to ship the goods in *sailing vessels!* It will be found in the 5th clause among the "exceptions and conditions."

We enclose copy of a circular sent to the Members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, containing reference to the other points, which also, we think, deserve the attention of our Chamber.

We trust that all these points will receive the prompt attention of the Committee.

We are, &c.,
STEARNS, HOBART & Co.

No. 71 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
17*th April* 1871.

MESSRS. STEARNS, HOBART & Co.,
Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your

letter of the 31st ultimo, calling attention to various objectionable clauses now very commonly introduced in Steamer Bills of Lading.

In reply, I am to state that, in regard to the phrase "Ship lost or not lost," it may be in your recollection that the question was mooted at the close of the General Meeting of the Chamber held on 26th January, but it was thought expedient to withdraw the motion which was brought under consideration at that time. I am to mention, for your information on this point, that it is believed the case, as regards the phrase in question, will be raised in England in connection with disputes arising out of shipments by the steamer John Dryden.

The other points alluded to have the attention of the Committee, but they are unable at present to see their way to any action being taken. The Circular letter of the Bengal Chamber, which you were good enough to enclose, proposes nothing, but as the matter was expected to be considered at the half-yearly meeting of that Chamber—to be held in May next—the Committee will take note of what may be proposed, or done, with a view to our aiding here in any measures considered expedient for the protection of shippers.

The Committee also hope the correspondence circulated to members of the Chamber, on discrepancies between clauses now introduced in Bills of Lading per steamer via Suez Canal, and clauses supposed to provide for equivalent circumstances in Policies of Insurance, may call attention to the objectionable clauses you have referred to, and thus lead to combined action in such a manner as may lead to the abrogation of the clauses that are considered so obnoxious.

I remain, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

MOLYNEUX PLACE, WATER STREET,
Liverpool, 14th June 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—Before I left Bombay, the subject of clauses in Bills of Lading exempting owners of ships from liability under particular circumstances was occupying the attention of the Committee of the Chamber. After my return to this country, I had an interview with Mr. Harper, the Secretary to the Association for the Protection of Commercial Interests, &c., and I found that the subject was under the consideration of Merchants and Underwriters, both in this country and in America, some difficult cases having arisen. The course of things has been this: whenever a shipowner is caught by any mischance and made liable, a clause exempting him from such liability in future is immediately inserted in Bills of Lading, and thus the owners have protected themselves at almost every point wherein there was formerly a liability under the common law. The last clause which has been introduced is the crowning one, and runs thus—"Nor for any damage whatever which is capable of being covered by Insurance." As any risk whatever is insurable at some rate, it is difficult to see what liability remains on the owner of the ship. It must not be forgotten that it is a very difficult thing for a shipper to get out of clauses in a Bill of Lading, as each one stands as a specific contract between the parties. I enclose a tabulated form with many particulars carefully prepared, which will be interesting to your Committee.

Your Committee will remember that the clause "Ship lost or not lost" is in the "John Drydens" bills of lading, and I understand that the case will be tried, whether consignees are liable to pay freight in the circumstances where no cargo has been delivered.

I am, &c.

A. D. GRANT.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMMERCIAL IN

Incorporated by

ROYAL EXCHANGE,

SIR,—The Committee beg to call the attention of Merchants being claimed by Shipowners, as shown by the following extracts

When these exemptions are inserted, they will, in many cases, of loss; and will deprive the Underwriter of his remedy over tions, the Shipowner would be liable to the Underwriter.

I.	II.	III.	IV.
Vessels, Bills of Lading of Goods on which have been examined.	From or to the following Foreign or Colonial Ports.	Conditions as to Freight.	Stipulations affecting the Voyage.
The owners are 32 Companies 116 Private These vessels are 16 Sailing 132 Steamers 148	Bombay Calcutta New York Quebec and Montreal Valparaiso Port Philip Mediterranean Brazil and River Plate Black Sea and Danube Baltic Norway Spain Portugal Cape Town and Natal Cardiff Hankow Whampoa Penang Madras Foochow Colombo Batavia Halifax Havre New Orleans Baltimore Havana Maranham China Pernambuco New Brunswick Boston and Philadelphia Africa and Mediterranean Bordeaux San Francisco Colon Acapulco and Manzanillo Tampico Central America &c. &c.	Nearly all Ordinary. Ordinary conditions are— 1. From London: freight payable in London—"ship lost or not lost." 2. From foreign ports, freight payable—if by shippers, "ship lost or not lost,"—if by consignees, "on delivery."	1. Liberty to call and stay at ports in or out of customary route: in any order: for any purpose. 2. Liberty to sail without pilot. 3. Liberty to tow and assist vessels in all situations. 4. Liberty to deviate from the voyage for any purpose.

TERESTS AS RESPECTS WRECKED OR DAMAGED PROPERTY.

Royal Charter.

London, 23rd May, 1871.

and Underwriters to the exemptions from liability which are from Bills of Lading.

leave the Merchant without resource against any one in the event against the Shipowner, in cases where, but for such special exemp-

V. Stipulations limiting the liability of Shipowners for Damage to Goods.	VI. Stipulations affecting the Carriage.
1. Not to be liable for damage from machinery, however caused—including consequence of defect in machinery, or of damage to it. 2. Not liable for damage from steam, or from boilers, however caused. 3. Not liable for damage from collision, however caused. 4. Nor for damage from stranding or wreck, however caused. 5. Nor for damage from heat, heat of hold, fire on board, fire in hulk or craft, fire on shore—however such fire (in any of these cases) may be caused. 6. Nor for damage from evaporation. 7. Nor for damage from smell of other goods. 8. Nor from damage through any of the following causes :— Misdoing, Error in judgment, Negligence, Default — of — 1. Pilot; 2. Master, Mariners, or Engineers; 3. Stevedores; 4. Any other person in service of the shipowner; whether on navigating the ship or otherwise. 9. Nor for damage in craft, or hulk. 10. Nor for damage in course of transhipment. (Chiefly Suez and at Singapore.) 11. Nor for damage from stranding in the Suez Canal, however caused. (Special.) 12. Nor to be liable for damage from sweating coals, or coal dust. 13. Nor for damage from rust or from injurious effects from other goods. 14. Nor for damage from vermin. 15. Nor for damage, or loss, following from ship's not having room at port of transhipment. 16. Nor for pilferage. 17. Nor for damage to wrappers, however caused. 18. Nor for damage or loss to goods by fire while on any pier or lighter, awaiting shipment. (Special to New York.) 19. Nor for any damage to glass, even when caused by negligence of persons in service of the shipowner. 20. Nor for loss by jettison, whether the subject of general contribution or not. 21. Nor for any damage whatever which is capable of being covered by insurance.	1. Liberty to carry the goods by any other steamer, any other ship: either belonging to the owner, or to any other person; and whether proceeding directly, or indirectly, to the port of delivery. 2. Liberty to carry the goods beyond the port of delivery, when necessary to enable the shipowner to fulfil an engagement as to delivery of mails: or (in particular trades) other engagements. In all such cases at the shipowner's expense; but at the merchant's risk. 3. Liberty to tranship the goods; to land and store them, either on shore or afloat; to reship, and forward them. 4. Liberty to stow the goods in the poop, or deck-house. 5. Liberty to carry goods of all kinds, whether dangerous or not.

I am, &c.,

J. A. W. HARPER,

Secretary.

No. 157 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
18*th July*, 1871.

A. D. GRANT, ESQ.,
Messrs. GRANT BROTHERS & Co.
Molyneux Place, Water Street, Liverpool.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 14th ult., and to return you their best thanks for the information conveyed therein in reference to the subject of clauses being introduced into Bills of Lading exempting owners of ships from liability under particular circumstances.

By a subsequent mail we received a few copies from the Secretary to the Association for the Protection of Commercials Interests of the tabular statement of stipulations, which you kindly enclosed for the information of the Chamber.

The question is still before the Committee, and though they have not seen their way to propose any special course of action to shippers here, on a matter of so much importance to their interests, it is to be hoped the discussions now going on in Chambers of Commerce, and in some of the public prints devoted largely to commercial questions, may help to produce a useful result.

An interesting article appeared in a recent number of the *Economist* newspaper on the subject, and a suggestion made therein towards a practical solution of the difficulty, viz., the settlement of a common form of Bill of Lading adapted to the circumstances of trade here had previously been canvassed by the Committee as a probable way of disposing of the question, though no resolution has yet been come to in the matter.

The case to which you refer in reference to the "John Dryden" Bills of Lading; on the clause, freight payable, "ship lost or not lost," is one of importance, and will be watched by merchants and underwriters with much interest.

I am, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

Discrepancies between Clauses now introduced in Bills of Lading per Steamers via Suez Canal, and the Clauses supposed to provide for equivalent circumstances in Policies in Insurance.

Bombay, 23rd February, 1871.

To JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to bring to the notice of the Chamber the discrepancies between clauses now introduced in Bills of Lading for cargo by steamers via the Suez Canal to Europe, and the clauses supposed to provide for equivalent circumstances in Policies of Insurance.

The Policies provide for steamers touching at any port or ports on the route, but the Bills of Lading give the steamer the option of any deviation whatever, and to call at any port or ports in or out of the usual course of the voyage.

In any unusual deviation the insured incurs an additional premium, and in event of the loss of the steamer on such deviation, should it be made without the knowledge of the insured, and no notice given by him to the insurer, the Policy of Insurance will be vitiated.

Steamer traffic has sprung up so rapidly that these discrepancies have crept into Bills of Lading without our having at first perceived the extra risk accepted by the insured, and we suggest that the subject should be referred to the Committee of the Chamber, and afterwards discussed at a General Meeting of members.

We are, &c.

W. NICOL & Co.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
2nd March, 1871.

MESSRS. W. NICOL & Co.,
Bombay.

DEAR SIRS,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 23rd ultimo, bringing to the notice of the Chamber "the discrepancies between clauses now introduced in Bills of Lading for cargo by steamers via the Suez Canal to Europe, and the clauses supposed to provide for equivalent circumstances in Policies of Insurance" which was duly submitted to the Committee of Management for their consideration.

In reply, I am to state that, while the principle must be recognised that each Bill of Lading is a contract between the shipper and owner, the Committee are of opinion that certain clauses now commonly introduced, as for example the following, are very objectionable :—

"The _____ are to be at liberty to carry the said goods to their port of destination by the above or other steamer or steamers, ship or ships, either belonging to _____ or to other persons, proceeding either directly or indirectly to such port, and in so doing to carry the goods beyond their port of destination, and to trans-ship or land and store the goods either on shore or afloat, and re-ship and forward the same at shipowner's expense, but at merchant's risk."

The Committee strongly recommend united action on the part of merchants to insist on such clauses as the above being expunged when shipping orders are taken.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX K.

PREPARATION OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.

No. 4 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
11th January, 1871.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to hand you herewith copy of a Memorandum on the subject of the Preparation of Shipping Documents. Recent disclosures suggested to the Committee that it would be well to adopt certain precautions, and they trust that you will adopt the suggestions proposed by them in the conduct of your own business, and thus support their efforts to place the trade of this city, on points of so much importance, on a sound basis.

I am, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 3 of 1871.

MEMORANDUM ON THE PREPARATION OF SHIPPING DOCUMENTS.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
January 1871.

The Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce have already, in an advertisement which appeared in the local newspapers on 25th June 1870, and in their Annual Report to the Chamber, dated 24th September, idem, declared

their views in condemnation of the dishonest practice of signing bills of lading in anticipation of the shipment of goods.

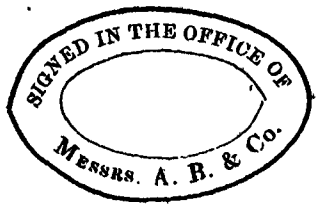
It has, however, been brought to the notice of the Committee that great hardship may arise to a shipper if he cannot get a bill of lading signed when nearly the whole of a large shipment is on board, and the balance, a small quantity, is detained alongside the ship from some cause, which is accidental, or which the shipper could not reasonably expect to arise.

It has been urged that such hardship is more likely to arise with weekly mails to England, and that, as the Cotton is alongside the ship, and therefore no fraud can possibly be intended, it would be a pardonable departure from the strict wording of the document for the Captain to sign a bill of lading for the whole shipment.

The Committee consider that the straightforward way out of such a difficulty is to have a bill of lading prepared and signed for the amount actually on board, and a second bill of lading for the balance when it has been taken in. The Committee consider that any slight inconvenience that may arise from having two sets of documents is of no moment whatever when compared with the possible evil results of such an act of immorality as framing a document which bears an untruth on the very face of it.

The Committee, while they are aware of the great difficulty in preventing fraud when the guilty determination exists in a man's mind, and while aware also of the inexpediency of creating checks and framing precautionary rules which may obstruct the free course of trade, nevertheless recommend for the adoption of merchants the following precautions against the recurrence of such frauds as were witnessed in the cases of the "Aurora" and "Teresa":—

I. All bills of lading which are signed in a merchant's office should be stamped with a stamp of the following description:—



with the initials of the firm or of the shipping clerk in the middle. If a bill of lading bore such a stamp it would to a certain extent be a guarantee that Mates' receipts, &c., were all in order.

II. All Mates' receipts from which bills of lading are prepared in a merchant's office should be endorsed "Bill of Lading prepared," with the date following; this would prevent a guilty second use of Mates' receipts in cases where the Captain had, in collusion with brokers or shippers, conspired to destroy his ship.

III. The Committee recommend to underwriters the discontinuance of the practice, somewhat prevalent in Bombay, of noting the full amount which they are prepared to take on a ship, especially if she be of an indifferent class, in the name of a freight broker. The broker's object, and the evil consequences which may ensue, are obvious. The Committee recommend that insurance be only granted in the names of merchants, and that underwriters, in order to prevent the use of fictitious names, should carefully note that the policy is ultimately made out in the same name in which the risk has been originally noted.

LLOYD'S, E. C., *7th March*, 1871.

TO JAMES TAYLOR, ESQ.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am desired by the Committee for managing the affairs of Lloyd's to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th January, transmitting for the information of the Committee a "Memorandum on the preparation of Shipping Documents," prepared by the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and circulated amongst the mercantile community of that city.

The Committee of Lloyd's regard with great satisfaction that the attention of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has been directed to this important subject, and they trust

that the memorandum issued may tend to prevent a recurrence of the frauds which have lately attracted so much attention.

I am, &c.,
B. CHARLES STEPHENSON,
Secretary.

B 8, EXCHANGE BUILDINGS,
Liverpool, 28th February, 1871.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Committee of the East India and China Association of Liverpool to acknowledge receipt of a printed Memorandum on the Preparation of Shipping Documents at Bombay, issued apparently by your Chamber, and dated January 1871. That some change is very desirable is admitted on all hands, and in the opinion of this Committee the precautions recommended in the Memorandum are judicious, and if generally adopted and carried out are likely to conduce materially to the protection of the honest shipper.

I am, &c.,
J. B. COOPER,
Secretary.

APPENDIX L.

SEPARATE OFFICE FOR BRITISH INDIAN SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

No. 30 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
10th February, 1871.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of Management to send you the accompanying copy of a general letter from Government to the Members of the Chamber, requesting an expression of their opinions on the points therein mentioned, as bearing on the question of the expediency, in the interests of the public, of the British India Submarine Telegraph Company having separate offices, and a distinct receiving and despatching establishment. And I am to request you will be so good as to record your opinion on the subject on the blank space of the printed letter, or otherwise, forwarding the same to me as promptly as possible, in order that the views of the Chamber may be laid before Government without delay.

I am, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 255 OF 1871.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 9th February, 1871.

TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—The question of the arrangements in respect to the management of the business of the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company (Limited) being now under the consideration of the Government of India, I am directed to obtain an expression of the views of your Chamber on a matter which is of importance to the mercantile community of this city.

2. The main point upon which your opinion is solicited is, whether or not it is for the public advantage that the Company shall be permitted to have an establishment and office for the receipt and delivery of messages distinct from, and independent of, the Government establishment.

3. In view to a clear understanding of the bearings of the question, I am directed to explain that the present system is as follows :—

All messages are received by the Government Telegraph Officers, and are despatched to their destination through the wires of that Company which is at the time receiving the quickest messages from abroad; *e.g.*, if, when a message is given for transmission, the last message that has been received has passed more quickly *vid* the Red Sea line, than by the Indo-European line, the message is sent by the former route, and if the reverse be the case, it is sent by the latter route.

4. Such a system appears to secure to the public the quickest transmission of each message; for if it were left to each individual sender, in ignorance of the workings of the lines, to choose his own route, he would not be in a position to select that which would be likely to ensure the most satisfactory results.

5. In considering the question whether, in the interests of the public, it would be better that matters should be left as they now are, or whether the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company should have separate offices, and a distinct receiving and despatching establishment, it is necessary that the system now pursued, under the above explanation, should be held very clearly in view.

6. His Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, would be glad to have an early expression of the views of your Chamber.

M. K. KENNEDY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 172.

BRITISH INDIAN SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED,
Bombay, 14th February, 1871.

TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—As the Government have requested to be informed of your views, whether it would be to the interests of the public that this Company's office should be separated from that of the Government Telegraph or not, permit me to inform you that the argument put forward in favour of the offices remaining as they are, viz., that messages are despatched "through the wires of that Company which is at the time receiving the quickest messages from abroad" is not strictly a matter of fact, as frequently when the dates by this Company's line have been later than those by the other lines, messages, which have been sent in without any indication of the route to be followed, have been forwarded *via* Kurrachee; and not only are messages without "*via*" thus diverted from this line, but even messages received by the British Indian Extension Telegraph Company (which is a part of our system), and handed to the Government Telegraph Office at Madras, with written instructions to be sent "*via* Red Sea," have been sent by other routes.

The "Date Report" is not always a safe guide as to the quickest route, as the following instance will show :—

The latest dates of private messages received up to 9 P.M., *via* Russia, were—

On the	16th	January	14th, 1-14 P.M.
„	17th	„	17th, 12-55 P.M.
„	18th	„	16th, 2-10 P.M.
„	19th	„	None.
„	20th	„	None.

Thus, had messages been sent on the 18th January by the line having the latest date up to 9 P.M. on the 17th January, the probability is that they would have been delayed several days, as the latest date on the 18th was nearly twenty-four hours *earlier* than that of the preceding day, and no later dates than the 16th were afterwards received up to the 20th.

It has long been the endeavour of the Company to have their office separated from that of the Government Telegraph, that they might be in direct communication with the public (instead of having to deal with it only through the Government officials), to enable them to receive *viva voce* complaints, and so remedy defects in their system, and to obtain generally a knowledge of its requirements, so as to develope the popularity and resources of the line.

It is only by freedom of action, and by being able to ensure speed, regularity of transmission, accuracy, and secrecy, that the Company can gain public favour and compete successfully with the lines in which the Government are interested; and without the power of receiving and delivering their own messages, it is impossible for the Company to ensure prompt despatch or delivery, and thus they lose the rapidity and punctuality upon which they rely as their main claim to public support.

In conclusion, I beg to assure you that the Company only desire that the public should treat their line on its merits, and that, by their actions being unfettered, they may be able to fully develope its resources.

I have, &c.,

GEO. B. STACEY,
General Superintendent.

No. 39 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
17th February, 1871.

To THE HON'BLE COL. M. K. KENNEDY, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., Public Works Department,
Bombay.

SIR,—I duly received and laid before the Members of the Chamber of Commerce your letter No. 255 of 1871, dated 9th instant, requesting an expression of their views on the point as to whether or not it would be for the public advantage that the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company, Limited, should be permitted to have an establishment and office for the receipt and delivery of messages distinct from, and independent of, the Government establishment.

By direction of the Committee of Management, I have now the honour to forward herewith 33 replies from Members of the Chamber to the circular letter under acknowledgment. A considerable number of members have not returned any reply to the letter, but it has not been deemed expedient to withhold longer from Government the opinions of those members who have sent in an expression of their views on the question submitted to them.

Of the 33 replies herewith enclosed, 17 mercantile firms and 5 Banks express very decided opinions in favour of a separate office and establishment for the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company; while 11 mercantile firms express opinions either in favour of the existing arrangement, or no decided opinion for or against. At the same time I have to draw attention to the point that several of those who seem indifferent on the question of a separate establishment express strong opinions that no partiality or favour should be shown for any particular line, and that when no special line is indicated by the sender, care should always be taken that telegrams are sent by the line in best working order.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 652 of 1871.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Bombay, 13th April, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to your letter dated 17th February 1871, and its accompaniments, I am directed to explain that the Government Telegraph Department in India is bound by the rules laid down in the Vienna Convention, and is consequently—except under special circumstances noticed in Article 13 of that Convention—obliged to send a message by any route specified by the sender, and therefore, except in special cases, has no choice, unless the sender deliberately leaves the option in its hands.

2. This was not clearly stated in my letter No. 255, dated 9th February 1871, and it does not appear to have been understood by many of the gentlemen and firms whose opinions were submitted with your letter under reference.

3. Further, many of those firms who have given an opinion treat the question as if the alternative were between a single office in which the Company would work under the control of Government, exercised, as at present, with regard to tariffs, and system of working, and separate offices, the Company in this latter case carrying on its operations quite independently of Government, being at liberty to alter its tariffs at pleasure.

4. Now, I am to point out that no such question was ever raised by Government. Should the Government of India accede to the request of the Company for a separate office, it would adjoin the Government Telegraph Office for the more convenient despatch of business, and the control exercised by Government would, in other respects, be precisely the same as heretofore. The views of the Chairman of the Company would indeed be met by the grant of a separate counter in the Government Office, at which his officials would receive messages direct from the public, without the intervention of the Government Department. No such freedom of action as advocated by some of the firms consulted was ever asked for by the Company, nor could such

freedom be granted by Government without an infraction of international obligations entered into at the Conference held at Vienna in 1865.

5. Government would be glad of a further expression of the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, after a consideration of the above remarks.

I have, &c.,

M. K. KENNEDY, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 78 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
26th April, 1871.

To THE HON'BLE COL. M. K. KENNEDY, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant on the question of a separate office for the British Indian Submarine Telegraph Company as raised in your letter of 9th February, to which answers were forwarded with my letter of 17th idem.

As you mention the matter was not clearly stated in your letter above referred to, and as a further expression of opinion from the Chamber is requested, I am, in reply, directed by the Committee of Management to request that, before again consulting the members, you will be so good as to point out the Article or Articles in the Vienna Convention, which you mention would be infringed, by Government granting such freedom of action as was advocated by some of the members who expressed their views on the occasion above referred to.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX M.

RULES FOR GUIDANCE OF SURVEYORS FOR SURVEY OF STEAM VESSELS UNDER SECTION 8, ACT II. OF 1864.

No. 35 of 1871.

MARINE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 30th May, 1871.

FROM THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to forward, for your information, the accompanying draft of rules and regulations which it is proposed to promulgate under Section 8 of Act II. of 1864 for providing for the surveys of vessels, and to invite the opinion of the Chamber thereon.

I am to request the favour of an early reply to this communication.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MACDONALD, Lieut.-Colonel.
Secretary to Government.

Rules for the Guidance of Shipwright and Engineer Surveyors.

GENERAL.

1. Surveys are, when practicable, to be made in the months of April and October, so that the declarations may be transmitted to the Master Attendant on or before the last day of April and the last day of October respectively.

2. But if, when the survey ought to be made, the vessel is absent from the port, or is not in a proper condition for a survey, either from being under construction or repair, or

for any other sufficient reason, then the survey is to be made as soon afterwards as possible, and the declaration is to be transmitted, with a statement endorsed thereon, by the Surveyors, of the reasons which have prevented the survey being held at the time prescribed.

3. Each Surveyor is to be careful that the owners of the steam-vessels requiring survey are informed that they are to give him at least three days' notice in writing. When a survey is required, such notice to state explicitly the name of the steamer and the time and place proposed for the survey, and that, should such notice fail to be given, he (the Surveyor) is not responsible for any delay or inconvenience which may occur in consequence.

4. This notice shall in every case be preserved by the Surveyor.

5. In order to prevent inconvenience and delay to the owners, the Surveyors are to be careful to be in attendance at the appointed time and place. Should they be unable to attend as required, notice should be given to the owners to that effect.

6. Should a steamer not be ready for inspection at the time arranged, the Surveyors may make such arrangement for the subsequent survey as may be convenient to the owner or his agent.

7. If, in consequence of any accident to the steam-ship, or for any other reason, the Surveyor considers it necessary to require the vessel to be taken into Dock for the purpose of surveying the hull thereof, he may do so, but he is to be careful to exercise this power only when the circumstances of the case actually require it.

8. The Surveyors may go on board any steam-ship liable to survey at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspection of the vessel, the machinery, the boats, or other equipments rendered necessary by the Act, and the owners, masters, and engineers of steam-ships are required by the Act to give to the Surveyors, on being requested so to do, all such information and assistance within their power as may be requisite for the purpose of making the returns. In the performance of this part of their duty, the Surveyors are to be careful to avoid impeding the duty of the vessel, or giving offence to any of the Officers; but should they be

hindered, or vexatiously obstructed, by any person in the performance of their duties, they are to communicate the same without delay to the Master Attendant.

9. The Surveyors are to make their inspections together, and should do so when the agent, master, or chief mate and engineer of the vessel are present. Repairs can then be ordered, and defects can be pointed out to the proper persons without incurring the uncertainty and delay attendant upon messages delivered to subordinate officers. In the case of iron vessels, the Engineer Surveyor should accompany the Shipwright in his examination of such parts of the hull and partitions as are in any manner connected with the machinery, or through which any pipe, valve, or shaft connected with the engines may pass. Whenever a Shipwright Surveyor intends to inspect a vessel in Dock, or on the ground, he should be very careful to notify his intention to the Engineer Surveyor, in order that the Engineer may also examine the outside part connected with the machinery without the necessity of ordering the vessel to be re-docked.

10. It is a part of the Surveyor's duty to report all cases of infringement of this Act which come under their notice, and in reporting them to the Master Attendant, they should take care to state what the evidence is on which their Report is founded.

DECLARATIONS.

11. Surveyors are in no case to give a declaration, either for the hull or machinery of a steamer, unless they are satisfied that all the requirements of the Act have been complied with.

12. In any case in which either of the Surveyors has reason to believe that the hull or machinery will not be sufficient for six months, he is to grant his declaration for such shorter period as he may deem it expedient, informing the owners, at the time, of his reasons for so doing in such cases; and also, in cases in which a joint declaration is refused, he is to give, if required, a statement, in writing, of the repairs he considers necessary to enable him to grant a declaration for the usual time.

13. The Surveyors are to keep an account of the persons to whom, and the dates on which, their declarations are given.

Certificates.

14. The Act requires that the Certificates shall be put in a conspicuous place, where it will be visible to all persons on board, under a penalty not exceeding Rs. 100 for each offence, and the Surveyors are to inform the Master Attendant of any case of non-compliance with this enactment which may come to their knowledge.

Accident and Damages.

15. In all cases in which a steam-ship has sustained damage from any accident or other cause affecting her seaworthiness or efficiency in any part of her hull, equipments or machinery, the Surveyors are to go on board and ascertain the extent of damages. In doing so, they will take care not to make any change in the position or condition of things on board, which would be at all likely to affect any legal evidence, should an enquiry into the case afterwards be considered necessary.

16. They are forthwith to send a Report to the Master Attendant, in order that the Certificate may be cancelled, if necessary. In this Report they are to state whether the vessel is rendered inefficient or unseaworthy, either in hull or machinery, and whether, in their opinion, the Certificate should be cancelled, or only temporarily withdrawn.

17. Unless directions to the contrary are given by the Master Attendant, the Surveyor is to hold the Certificate of the vessel during the time the vessel is under repair, and for this purpose he is to require it of the Master.

18. Should the Master or owner decline to give up the Certificate, the Surveyor is to send information immediately to the Master Attendant, so that, if necessary, it may be cancelled.

19. When the vessel is in every respect rendered seaworthy and efficient, both in hull and machinery, to the entire satisfaction of the Surveyor, he is to put an endorsement on the Certificate to the effect that the damage has been made good so as to last either for the period for which the Certificate was granted, or for any shorter period for which he may consider it perfectly safe for the vessel to run, and allow the vessel to proceed. He is then to send to the Master Attendant a statement of the extent of the repair that was necessary, and a copy of the endorsement made on the Certificate.

20. In all cases in which a Surveyor is directed by the Master Attendant to obtain from an owner, or Master, a Certificate that has expired, or has been cancelled, or revoked, he is to apply for it without delay; and, in the event of his application not being attended to, he is at once to report the case.

21. All books, forms, and papers, required for carrying the Act into effect, will be forwarded from time to time by the Master Attendant.

Instructions to Shipwright Surveyors.

HULL OF THE SHIP.

22. The Surveyor is to determine whether the hull of a vessel is in good condition and fit for the service from which she is intended, and he is to examine the bottom of the vessel outside once at least in every year at such a time as is most convenient to the owner.

BOATS.

23. It will be the duty of the Shipwright Surveyor to take care that all steam ships are provided with boats according to their tonnage, both as the number and cubic contents, and to be very particular in seeing that they are efficient and in good order and ready for service.

24. These boats must be duly supplied with all requisites for use, and the Surveyors are to see that those requisites are in thorough repair, and that they, together with the boats themselves, are always in such a position as to be available without delay in case of danger. The plugs and thole pins are always to be attached to the boats by lanyards. Amongst the requisites for use, there must be included efficient means for lowering the boats into the water safely and expeditiously, and Surveyors are to refuse declaration in cases in which the boats are in such a position as not to be ready for use in an emergency, or in which efficient means are not provided for lowering them.

25. It is to be left to ship-owners themselves to provide such methods as they please for lowering the boats, so long as the intention of the Legislature is, in the Surveyors' judgment, complied with.

LIFE BUOYS.

26. Life Buoys should in all cases be carefully examined by the Surveyor, in order to satisfy himself of their buoying

to see that the material of which they are composed has not become sodden, and that the lines attached to them are sufficient.

27. The steam-whistle in use as a fog signal should be surveyed by the Shipwright Surveyor as well as by the Engineer, and care should be taken that both it and the fog horn and bell are in a serviceable condition.

Instructions to Engineer Surveyors.

BOILERS AND MACHINERY.

28. The machinery to be surveyed comprises the engines and the boilers used for propelling the vessel, and all the machinery connected therewith. The boilers of donkey engines are to be surveyed with the boilers and machinery of the vessel when they are in any way connected with them, but boilers and machinery used for loading and unloading the vessels, or used exclusively for purposes unconnected with the motive power of the vessel, do not form a part of the machinery required to be surveyed by this Act.

29. In the examination of the machinery and boilers, the Engineer Surveyor will be particularly careful; he must in no case give a declaration without thoroughly satisfying himself that both the boilers and the rest of the machinery are sufficient for the service intended and in good condition.

30. The Engineer Surveyor, in this examination of the machinery and boilers, is particularly to direct his attention to the safety valves, and whenever he considers it necessary, he is to satisfy himself as to the pressure upon the boiler by actual trial.

SAFETY VALVES.

31. Each boiler must be fitted with a safety valve, constructed so that it shall be entirely out of the control of the Engineer when the steam is up, and so that he may not have the power of increasing the pressure upon it in any manner whilst the vessel is under steam.

32. The responsibility of seeing to the efficiency of the mode in which this is done rests with the Surveyor, but either of the following modes appear to the Master Attendant to be satisfactory.

1st.—The valves may either be contained wholly within the boiler and accessible through the manhole only; or,

2nd.—It may be in the outside of the boiler, closed in a box sufficiently large only for the weights and the necessary motion for them and secured by a lock, of which the key is to be kept by the Master of the vessel, who will be responsible should any additional weight or pressure be placed on the valve.

33. No boiler or steam chamber is to be so constructed, fitted, or arranged, as that the escape of the steam from it through the safety valve can be wholly or partially intercepted by the action of any other valve.

34. The Government safety valve is in all cases to be of at least the same area as the ordinary safety valve upon the same boiler, and to bear an equal or less pressure, but not in any case a greater.

35. It is extremely desirable that the safety valve beforementioned should be in addition to the ordinary valve, and the Surveyor should point out this to the owners of vessels, but, as it is not expressly enjoined by the Act, they are not to refuse to give a declaration on account of the recommendation not being complied with.

36. The Engineer Surveyor is to fix the limits of the weight to be placed on the safety valves, and in doing so he must be particularly careful.

37. When he has determined the amount of the pressure, he is to see the valve weighted accordingly, and the weights fixed in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of their shifting.

38. The limits of the weight on the valves will have to be inserted in the declaration, and should it at any time come to the knowledge of a Surveyor that the weights have been shifted or otherwise altered, or that the valve has in any way been interfered with, he is at once to report to the Master Attendant.

39. The Shipwright and Engineer Surveyor shall also specially ascertain that all steam-vessels are provided with good serviceable tarpaulins for the safety of engine-room, hatches, skylights, hatchways, and all other open spaces upon the upper deck, and shall see that there is some safe place

well protected from the violence of wind and sea for the accommodation of deck passengers during the prevalence of heavy weather.

No. 139 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
24th June, 1871.

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. A. MACDONALD,
Secretary to Government, Marine Department,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 35 of 1871, dated 30th ult., forwarding copy of draft rules and regulations which it is proposed to promulgate under Section 8 of Act II. of 1864 for providing for the surveys of vessels, and requesting the opinion of the Chamber thereon.

In reply, I am to state the Committee are of opinion the proposed rules and regulations, so far as they go, are simple and unobjectionable, but even if to be taken merely as hints for the Surveyors, they are rather incomplete. The Committee, therefore, desire to draw the attention of Government to the various points noted on the accompanying Memorandum which have been pressed on the notice of the Committee as of great importance, and to which the attention of Surveyors should be carefully directed.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
24th June, 1871.

Memorandum by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the draft Rules and Regulations submitted by Government, for providing for the Surveys of Vessels under Sec. 8 of Act II. of 1864.

I.—No mention is made of fire pumps, buckets, hoses, or other arrangements for extinguishing fire.

II.—Boilers used for loading steamers, though not connected with the motive power for driving the ships, should be included in the general survey, as should it be necessary to have special surveys for these boilers it would be an extra tax on the owners of steamers.

Boats should be put in the water at least once a month, and that when the crew cannot be practised at the boat station, they at least should be shown how the boats are stowed, and know any peculiarities about them.

Life Buoys should be carried on the bridge, and at least two should be at the stern, and should not be made fast by a lanyard as they almost always are; they should be on hooks ready to be thrown over.

Bunker Lids should be fastened down that they may not be washed away admitting a sea.

Fire Hoses and Buckets should be on board, and good pumps, the hoses to reach to each end of the vessel.

Bulk Heads.—It should be seen if they are water-tight, several rivets are often out, and the sluices should all be workable from the deck. The sluices are generally too small, and work badly.

Tunnel in Screw Ships should be secured by a water-tight door.

Tanks.—Passenger vessels should have tanks for fresh water, and a condenser proportioned to their size.

Masts and Sails should be sufficient, and be examined, spare sails being carried.

Anchors and Chains should be strong enough and of proper length, and every vessel should have a sufficient hawser.

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX N.

DISALLOWANCE OF DRAWBACK ON ARTICLES DIFFICULT OF IDENTIFICATION.

No. 1,952 of 1871.

BOMBAY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
10th June, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward the accompanying correspondence in original, as per margin, in regard to the disallowing of drawbacks on articles which cannot be identified, and to request that you will be so good as to obtain and favour me with the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, as required in para. 2 of the Government Resolution No. 3,119 of the 30th June 1870, for submission to Government at your early convenience.

Commissioner of Customs' letter, No. 756, dated 21st March 1870, to Government.
Government Endorsement on the above, No. 1,788, dated 13th April 1870.
Commissioner's Report, No. 1,088, dated 16th April 1870.
Government Endorsement, No. 2,292, dated 13th May 1870.
Commissioner's letter, No. 1,499, dated 17th May 1870.
Government Resolution, No. 2,592, dated 1st June 1870.
Government Resolution, No. 3,119, dated 30th June 1870.
Commissioner's letter, No. 2,186, dated 4th July 1870.
Government Resolution, No. 3,335, dated 12th July 1870.
Government Endorsement, No. 3,358, dated 13th July 1870.
Government Memorandum, No. 2,680, dated 6th June 1871, with accompaniment.

I have, &c.,
L. REID,
Commissioner of Customs.

No. 155 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
14th July, 1871.

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS,
Salt and Opium, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,952 of 1871, dated 10th ultimo, with its various enclosures referring to the question of the disallowance of drawback on articles imported into Bombay which are difficult of identification,—on which the opinion of the Chamber is requested for the information of Government.

In reply, I am to state that the policy in this matter, indicated by the Government of India in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter in the Financial Department, dated 25th May, has the hearty concurrence of the Chamber.

The *entrepôt* trade of Bombay in connection with the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, Zanzibar, and the East Coast of Africa, is of more importance than can be measured by the value of the imports, considerable as that is; and a change of a hard-and-fast character like the Notification, dated 3rd June 1870, cannot fail to have an injurious effect on it.

The Committee are of opinion that in reference to the re-export of produce which can be identified as foreign, on which duty of course has been paid, as little difficulty as possible should be placed in the way of granting drawbacks, and a frank recognition of this principle, carefully and intelligently applied, would be sufficient to check attempts to defraud the revenue without checking the trade.

It is not alleged that fraud in connection with trade in the re-exports of produce on which duty has been paid has increased, and in the absence of proof in support of such a supposition, it seems, in the opinion of the Committee, hardly just to place restrictions upon it of the character referred to, which would interfere materially with the present method of conducting it,—the trade in question being mainly in the hands of native merchants.

Bonded warehouses are valuable for many purposes, though not suited for every description of goods; but the bonded

warehouses now in possession of Government would not meet the present difficulty, for two reasons :—First, they are too distant from the Native Town where the trade in the produce under consideration is principally carried on; and, second, there is not sufficient space in the existing warehouses for the accommodation of the large numbers of men, women, and children, usually employed in the preparation of gums, coffee (from Berbara and the Red Sea), and other produce intended for re-export.

The Committee believe that a portion of the landed estate recently acquired by Government could hardly be put to a better use than to erect thereon warehouses suited for the garbling, storing, and the re-export of the produce which, in reference to the drawbacks claimed, gives trouble to the Customs authorities from the difficulty as to identification.

The land in question is in the vicinity of that part of the Native Town which is the centre of this trade, and the Committee are of opinion that if suitable warehouses were constructed for its accommodation at moderate rates, the native merchants would readily take advantage of the convenience thus afforded for the conduct of their business.

Until accommodation in the quarter, and of the character mentioned, is provided, the Committee consider it would be unwise on the part of Government to endeavour to press on the merchants the use of the present warehouses, or otherwise to abolish drawback on the re-export of foreign produce, as such a policy is but too likely to entail loss to the public revenue, and to cripple an important portion of the trade of Bombay.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

P.S.—The papers forwarded with your letter under acknowledgment are herewith returned.

J. T.

No. 4,549 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 14th September, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to your letter to the address of the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, dated 14th July last, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a Resolution passed by Government on the subject therein referred to.

I have, &c.,
W. H. CROWE,
For Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 4,547.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 14th September, 1871.

Letter from the Government of India, No. 716, dated 25th May 1871—Communicating certain observations on this Government letter No. 1,529, dated 30th March last, forwarding a memorial from certain merchants on the subject of the Notification, dated 3rd June 1870, by the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, by which it was proclaimed that imported goods difficult of identification would not be admitted to drawback on re-exportation, unless their identity be clearly established, and that such goods should be warehoused on arrival in the event of a probability of their being re-exported; and advising that if the question has not been discussed with the Chamber of Commerce, as was suggested in their letter No. 1,353, dated 18th June 1870, the opinion of that body be ascertained.

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, No. 3,091, dated 2nd September 1871—Submitting, with his remarks, the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject.

RESOLUTION.—The Commissioner of Customs is requested to withdraw the Notification of the 3rd June 1870.

2. As long as the Customs authorities are satisfied that the goods are foreign, and have in all probability been imported within the two years prescribed by law, drawback is to be allowed without strict proof of actual identity being insisted on. At the same time it is presumed every necessary precaution will be taken to prevent fraud in such cases as that of gum, quoted as an instance by the Commissioner of Customs.

3. Copies of the correspondence are to be forwarded to the Government of India, and their attention requested to the remarks of the Chamber of Commerce as to the advisability of providing warehouse accommodation on the Elphinstone property for the garbling and storing of produce likely to be re-exported.

F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 5,347 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 26th October, 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter No. 4,549, dated 14th ultimo, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a Resolution passed by Government, in the Public Works Department, on the subject of providing warehouse accommodation on the Elphinstone property for the garbling and storing of produce likely to be re-exported.

No. 170 C. W.—361, dated 13th October 1871.

I have, &c.,
H. E. JACOMB,
Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 170 C. W.—361 OF 1871.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 13th October, 1871.

Transfer from the Revenue Department, No. 4,547, dated 14th September, 1871,

Of an extract of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the advisability of providing warehouse accommodation on the Elphinstone property for the garbling and storing of produce likely to be re-exported.

RESOLUTION.—The Consulting Engineer should call on the Chief Engineer for Reclamations for a definite project to meet this want, which appears to be pressing. Funds are not at present available for the building, but the subject should not be lost sight of, and it should be a first liability on funds becoming available.

W. A. BAKER, Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX O.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

No. 3,183.

Simla, 4th October, 1870.

FROM A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,
Director General of the Post Office of India.

TO THE SECRETARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, dated 23rd September, I have the honour to state, for the information of the Chamber, that the Government of India have directed the construction of time-tables on the basis of the sketch given in paragraph 4 of my letter of the 14th September, of which a copy was forwarded to you under this office endorsement No. 2,811 of that date, but I fear that the revised arrangements will not be brought into operation before the 1st November. I have pressed for an early introduction of these arrangements as may be possible, but I believe the 1st November to be the date by which the Railway authorities expect to be able to commence them.

2. I take this opportunity of forwarding to you copy of a letter recently addressed by me to the Secretary General Post Office, London, regarding the alteration of the dates of departure of the steamers from Bombay in connection with the general revision of the Mail service resulting from the contemplated adoption of the Brindisi route. It is only by some such alteration of dates that this Department can take advantage of the recent offer of the Peninsular and Oriental Company to reduce the monsoon allowance from four to three days, for, if the existing dates

No. 2,960, dated 20th Sept. 1870.

be maintained, the Calcutta mail would thereby be thrown on a Sunday afternoon during the monsoon season.

I am, &c.,

FRED. R. HOGG,
For Director General of the Post Office.

No. 71 OF 1871.

Simla, 20th September, 1870.

FROM A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,
Director General of the Post Office of India.

TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL POST OFFICE,
London.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 430, dated 11th August last, relative to the inexpediency of at present disturbing existing arrangements in connection with the homeward mail service, as the entire mail service will probably be carried viâ Brindisi in the summer of next year.

2. I trust that when the new arrangement is made, due consideration will be shown to the convenience of this country as respects the days and hour of departure from Bombay. In para. 5 of my letter of the 26th April, No. 323, I stated that there was a prospect of being able to arrange for the arrival of the principal mail trains at Bombay at an hour admitting of an afternoon departure of the steamer, and that in that case the former arrangements of an afternoon departure would be reverted to. This has quite recently been arranged with effect from the 1st November or thereabouts, and the Superintendent of the P. and O. Company will be informed that the mail steamers leaving Bombay subsequent to that date should leave on Saturday afternoon at 5½ P.M. It has been found impossible to arrange for a departure of the steamer earlier than 5½ P.M., and this should accordingly be the hour provided for in the new table.

3. I further explained to you in my previous letter above quoted, that the present days of departure from Bombay are

extremely inconvenient, and I hope that in the new arrangements it will be found possible to alter them by a postponement of two days. The dates of departure from the three Presidency towns of India will then stand as follows:—

		Monsoon.	Rest of the Year.
Steamer leaves Bombay		Friday, 5½ P.M.	Monday, 5½ P.M.
Mails closed at Calcutta		Tuesday evening.	Friday evening.
Mails closed at Madras	At present	Tuesday morning.	Friday morning.
	When Railway communication is complete	Wednesday evening.	Saturday evening.

In the above it has been assumed that the reduction of monsoon allowance from 4 to 3 days, already conceded by the P. and O. Company, will form part of the new arrangement.

4. I shall be glad to hear as soon as convenient, whether these days of departure from Bombay can be adopted; and, if it be found impossible to do so, I would beg particularly that no final arrangement be made without previous reference to this Office. In drawing out the time table for 1871, prior to the introduction of the new arrangements, it should be borne in mind that the reduction of monsoon allowance conceded by the P. and O. Company cannot be availed of until the dates of departure are altered as above proposed, because it would throw the Calcutta mail day during the monsoon on a Sunday.

I have, &c.,

A. M. MONTEATH,
Director General of Post Office.

No. 238 of 1870.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce,
12*th October*, 1870.

A. M. Monteath, Esq.,
Director General of the Post Office of India,
Simla, or elsewhere.

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3,183, dated 4th instant, and to tender you their thanks,

for so promptly informing them regarding the change in the mail arrangements to take effect from the 1st November. It is to be regretted that the Government of India did not direct the construction of time tables, that would have been in conformity with what you so strongly recommended, previously, and permitted a somewhat earlier departure from Bombay.

In reference to what is proposed as to next year's arrangements, I am directed by the Committee to point out that Monday 5½ P.M., in the fair season, will be a very inconvenient day for the mercantile community of this place, and they would be glad if this part of the proposed arrangements could be altered.

I have, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 3,617.

Simla, 5th November, 1870.

FROM A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,
Director General of the Post Office of India.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 12th October, and particularly to that portion in which you point out "that Monday 5½ P.M., in the fair season, will be a very inconvenient day for the mercantile community of this place," I have the honour to observe that my proposal to the London Post Office in respect of the days of departure of the mail steamers from Bombay was based on a careful consideration of the convenience of the three Presidency Towns: and I think that the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, will admit that the days suggested by me are, on the whole, the best. My suggestion was as follows:—

		Monsoon.	Rest of the Year.
Steamer leaves Bombay		Friday, 5½ P.M.	Monday, 5½ P.M.
Mails closed at Madras	At present	Tuesday morning.	Friday morning.
	When Railway communication is complete	Wednesday evening.	Saturday evening.
Mails closed at Calcutta		Tuesday evening.	Friday evening.

The objections to the above are (1) Inconvenience to Bombay of a Monday departure of steamer, and (2) Eventual inconvenience to Madras of a late Saturday* evening departure.

2. I proceed to notice the inconvenience which would result from any other arrangement.

(1.) One day later would result in a Sunday despatch (eventually) from Madras, and would also give a late Saturday evening despatch from Calcutta.

(2.) Two days later would result in a Sunday afternoon despatch from Bombay in the monsoon, a Sunday evening despatch from Calcutta during the rest of the year, and in a Sunday morning despatch from Madras under present arrangements, *i.e.*, until further extention of the Railway, *as well as in a Monday evening despatch from Madras during the fair weather when Railway communication is complete.*

(3.) Three days later would give Monday for the Bombay monsoon date and for the Calcutta fair weather date, and also for the Madras fair weather date under present arrangements, *i.e.*, until further extension of the Railway. *It would also give Saturday evening as the Madras monsoon date when Railway communication is completed.*

(4.) One day earlier would result in a Sunday despatch from Bombay during the fair season, in a Monday evening despatch from Calcutta during the monsoon, and in a Monday morning despatch from Madras under present arrangements, *i.e.*, until further extention of the Railway.

(5.) Two days earlier would result in a Sunday evening despatch from Calcutta during the monsoon, and in a Sunday morning despatch from Madras during the monsoon under present arrangements.

(6.) Three days earlier would result in a late Saturday evening despatch from Calcutta during the monsoon, and in a Sunday evening despatch (eventually) from Madras during the monsoon.

3. You will see from the above that the question of the days of starting of mail steamers from Bombay is by no means

* Here, and elsewhere, I regard a late Saturday evening despatch as quite distinct in respect of inconvenience from a Saturday afternoon despatch.

a simple one, and that any days that may be fixed upon give rise to some inconvenience. I believe that the days suggested by me will, on the whole, be productive of the least amount of inconvenience, but I shall, of course, be ready to consider any remarks upon the subject which the Bombay Chamber of Commerce may desire to offer.

I have, &c.,

A. M. MONTEATH,

Director General of the Post Office of India.

No. 256 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

17*th November*, 1870.

A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,

Director General of the Post Office of India,

Simla, or elsewhere.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8,617, dated 5th inst., detailing the reasons which weighed with you in making the proposal to the London Post Office regarding the days of departure of the Mail Steamers from Bombay described in your letter of 4th October, which proposal, in so far as it effected Bombay, was stated in my letter of the 12th idem to be incovenient for the mercantile community of this place.

In reply, I am to express the acknowledgments of the Committee for the trouble you have taken in laying before them the whole bearing of the question as they affect the other Presidency towns. They fully recognise the difficulties you point out in the way of proposing any other arrangement that would be more convenient to Bombay, and they are satisfied that, in the event of any modifications of your proposal being made hereafter, you will do what you can to make any change that may be necessary, as convenient for us as circumstances will permit.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

APPENDIX P.

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF POST CARDS.

No. 3,336.

Simla, 19th October, 1870.

FROM A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,
Director General of the Post Office of India.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—Having observed in the public prints some reference to the introduction in the Prussian Post Office of stamped correspondence cards for use by the public, I addressed the Secretary General Post Office, London, in July last, requesting to be furnished with some specimens of the cards referred to, and with any information available as to the degree of success which had attended their introduction in Prussia.

2. I annex a copy of Mr. Tilley's reply of the 8th September, together with one of the specimen cards referred to therein. It will be observed that the system is about to be introduced in the English Post Office, the cost of each stamped card being only a half-penny. I think it probable that half-penny correspondence cards will obtain a great circulation in England so long as the minimum rate for other letters remains at one penny: but I have some doubt whether the correspondence cards would be of any material convenience to the public if unaccompanied by a reduction of the postage rate. In paragraph 2 of his letter Mr. Tilley appears to take this view.

3. My object in now addressing you is to seek the opinion of the Chamber on the two following points, viz.:—

(1.) Would the introduction of correspondence cards in India be of any material use to the public if unaccompanied by a reduction of postage rate?

(2.) Would it be advisable to raise the Indian minimum rate for ordinary letters from 6 pie to 8 pie (equivalent of one penny), and to introduce a new 4-pie rate for correspondence cards only, the limits of weight for ordinary letters being as follows ?—

8 pie rate..... ½ Tola ;
1 anna rate ..... 1 Tola ;
and so on as at present.

4. In suggesting the alteration indicated in the second question, I have assumed that the Government will not be prepared at present to make any further sacrifice of Letter Post revenue. It is little more than a year ago that the limits of weight for the several letter rates of postage were doubled, and if any further sacrifice of present revenue can be made, the claims of newspapers and books will probably receive first attention. I do not think that the alterations indicated by me would involve any loss of revenue, for, though the correspondence cards would pass at a rate lower than the present minimum, there would be an increased minimum charge for ordinary letters.

5. I have yet to consider the effect which such an alteration might have on native correspondence, and would not, of course, come to any conclusion on the point without such consideration ; but, meantime, the Chamber may be able to give me an opinion respecting the adaptation or otherwise of the suggested change to the wants and convenience of the European community in India.

I have, &c.,
FRED. R. HOGG,
For Director General of the Post Office of India.

No. 94,496.

8th September, 1870.

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL POST OFFICE,
London.

TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA,
Calcutta.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 29th of July last, in which you ask for information as to the results of the system of "Correspondence Cards" which has been introduced in North Germany, I beg leave to inform you that the system has not been long enough in operation in that country to admit of the results being yet shown.

2. Moreover, in North Germany the cards are not forwarded through the Post at a less rate than ordinary letters, but at the same rate; and, consequently, the advantage to the public will be very small.

3. In Austria, where the Post Card has been established for some months, the postage charged on each card is 2 kreuzer only, and, according to a letter from the Director General of the Austrian Post Office, it appears that, during the first five months in which the system was in operation, the number of cards sold was 3,371,116, while the number of ordinary letters passing through the Post did not at all fall off.

4. The Post Card is about to be adopted in three or four other European countries, and it will be introduced in the United Kingdom on the 1st of October next. The cards adopted by the several countries are very similar in size and appearance; and the enclosed specimens of the English cards, which I have much pleasure in forwarding to you, will convey a good notion of the description of card generally selected. It is intended to reduce slightly the dimensions of the English cards on the next issue, so as to make the height from top to bottom correspond more nearly with the size of ordinary letters, and thus prevent injury to the cards when tied up with letters for transmission through the post.

5. I am unable at present to furnish you with a copy of the regulations to be observed in the use of the cards in the

United Kingdom as they are not yet completed; but the following are the principal features of the scheme :—

(1.) The rate of postage will be one half-penny.

(2.) The cards which bear a half-penny stamp will be sold to the public at the rate of one half-penny each, no charge being made for the card.

(3.) The front (or stamped) side is intended for the address only. There must be no other writing or printing on it.

(4.) On the reverse side any communication, whether of the nature of a letter or otherwise, may be written or printed.

(5.) If the writing or printing be of an offensive character, the card will be stopped.

I have, &c.,

J. TILLEY.

No. 247 OF 1870.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
29th October, 1870.

A. M. MONTEATH, ESQ.,
Director General of the Post Office of India,
Simla, or elsewhere.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of this Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3,336, dated 19th instant, communicating copy of a letter from the Secretary H. M.'s Postmaster General, London, on the subject of "Correspondence Cards," which were to be introduced into the United Kingdom on the 1st idem, and requesting the opinion of this Chamber on two points explained in your letter, in reference to the introduction of these cards in India.

In reply, I am directed by the Committee to state that, in reference to your first question, they are of opinion that the introduction of correspondence cards would be of no great use to the mercantile or the European portion of the community generally, and that it would not be advisable to do so without a reduction of the postage rate.

In regard to your second question, the Committee are of opinion that it would not be expedient to raise the minimum rate for ordinary letters from 6 pie to 8 pie, particularly in reference to the introduction of a scheme which, in their opinion, is not very well suited to the circumstances of this country.

I am, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX Q.

PORT TRUST AND WHARFAGE FEE QUESTIONS.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
28th July 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Public Works Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to state, for the information of Government, that a feeling of dissatisfaction is gradually arising in the mercantile community, and amongst the public generally, since Act V. of 1870 came into operation, owing to the burdens imposed thereby, and further from the great delay which has occurred in making public the proposals of Government for the formation of a Port Trust.

Representations on these points have been made to the Chamber, but the Committee, in the expectation of an early expression of the views of Government, have hitherto delayed addressing His Excellency in Council on the subject.

In the absence, however, of any communication, I am directed respectfully to request that Government will favour the Chamber with such information as His Excellency in Council may think fit to give, and, further, with all deference, to urge on Government the desirability of avoiding further delay in the settlement of a question of so much importance to the trade of Bombay.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

No. 1,403 of 1871.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 9th August, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, I am directed to state, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, that Government have under its careful consideration the future arrangements regarding the harbour and foreshore of Bombay, and have been for some time in communication with the Government of India on the subject.

2. I am to add that the result will be made known to the Chamber of Commerce as soon as the Government is in a position to do so.

I have, &c.,
W. A. BAKER, Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

THE following Act of the Governor of Bombay in Council, received the assent of the Right Honourable the Governor on the 27th October 1870, and the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 3rd February 1871, and is published for general information :—

ACT No. V. OF 1870.

An Act for the levy of Fees for the use of the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing-places, Piers and Hards in the City of Bombay.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the levy of Fees on the use of the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing-places, Piers and Hards in the City of Bombay ; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Preamble.

I.—It should be lawful for the Governor in Council from time to time, by order published in the *Government Gazette*, to fix and determine the limits of any Government Bunder, Wharf, Landing-

The Governor in Council to fix limits of bunders and the fees leviable.

place, Pier or Hard in the City of Bombay, and also to fix and determine the fees to be levied for the landing, shipping, wharfage, cranage, storage or demurrage of goods, and for permission for vessels or boats to approach or be alongside, and for animals or vehicles carrying goods and merchandise to or from or entering upon or plying for hire at or on any Government Bunder, Wharf, Landing-place, Pier or Hard in the City of Bombay: Provided always that it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to exempt from the payment of fees under this Act, any goods, vessels, boats, vehicles or animals which would otherwise be liable to the payment of fees under the provisions of this Act.

Proviso.

II.—The Governor in Council shall appoint such Officers as he may deem proper to levy the fees imposed under this Act, and to perform all other duties in connection therewith imposed under this Act and the bye-laws made in pursuance of this Act.

Appointment of officers.

III.—It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to make bye-laws for regulating the use of the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing-places, Piers and Hards referred to in this Act, and for the management of the traffic over or on them, and from time to time to add to, alter, or revoke such bye-laws or any of them, provided that no bye-law so made shall be inconsistent with any provision of this Act, or of any other law for the time being in force, and that no bye-laws made under this section shall be of any force or effect until the same have been published in the *Government Gazette*.

Government to make bye-laws.

IV.—The fees leviable under this Act shall be payable on demand, and the Officers appointed to levy fees under this Act shall have the same powers for collecting and enforcing payment of the said fees as are exercised by the Commissioner of Customs of Bombay and his subordinate officers in respect of Customs duties; and the officers appointed to levy fees under this Act shall have the same privileges and be subject to the same liabilities in respect of anything done by them in collecting and enforcing payment of fees under this Act, as the Commissioner of Customs and his subordinates have

Fees to be paid on demand. Powers of officers to collect fees.

or are subject to under the provisions of any Act in force relating to the said Customs.

Table of fees to be printed in the Vernacular and hung up at the Bunders.

V.—Tables of the fees to be levied under this Act shall be printed in the English, Gujarathi, and Marathi languages, and such table shall be hung up and kept hung up in a conspicuous position at the several Bunders, Wharves, Landing-places and Piers at which such fees are leviable.

Publication of the accounts of receipts and expenditure; money raised under the Act to be applied in payment of salaries, &c.

VI.—The accounts of the receipts and expenditure under this Act shall twice in every year be published in the *Government Gazette*, and all moneys raised under the provisions of this Act shall be applied in payment of salaries and expenses connected with the administration of this Act, in payment of interest upon moneys expended or to be expended on the acquisition of the property of the Elphinstone Land and Press Company, Limited, on the reclamation of portions of the Harbour foreshore, and in the construction and acquisition of Docks, Wharves, Basins, Piers, Hards, Light Houses, and other property or works required for the trade and convenience of the city of Bombay, and on the maintenance and improvement of such property or works.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

JOHN JARDINE,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 11th February 1871.

Act V. of 1870.

Order of Government.

Under Section 1 of Bombay Act V. of 1870, the limits of the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing Places, Piers or Hards in the city of Bombay, at which fees will (in supersession of all existing scales of fees) be levied on and from 1st March 1871, according to the scale published below, for the purposes stated in the said section, are fixed and determined as hereunder mentioned, and the fees to be

so levied at the said Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing Places, Piers, or Hards, are fixed and determined as hereunder also mentioned.

Mr. John Ryan is appointed, under section 2, to collect all fees leviable under the said Act.

Names and limits of the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing Places, Piers, and Hards, above referred to.

Sewree Bunder.—Extending from a point 400 yards to the north of Sewree Fort on the north, to the property in the occupation of Essa Fuzul on the south-west, and bounded on the north-west partly by private property, and partly by the Sewree Road including the footpath to the northward in continuation thereof.

Tank Bunder (Except the property leased to Messrs. W. Nicol & Co.)—Bounded on the north partly by the Frere Land Company's property, and partly by the Sea; on the south partly by the Mazagon Land Company's property, and by the Hindoo Burial Ground; and on the west partly by the Frere Land Company's property, partly by private property, and partly by the Mazagon Road.

Kussara Bunder.—Bounded on the north by the Harbour Defence Workshops, on the south by the property of the P. & O. Company, and on the west by Government land occupied by several individuals.

Mazagon Bunder.—Bounded on the north by the P. and O. Company's property, on the south by the Viegas Patent Slip, and on the west by the Mazagon Road.

The Bunders from the southern boundary of the Mogul's Dockyard, now in the occupation of the British India Steam Navigation Company (Limited), to the Basin in front of Grant Buildings.—Bounded on the north and northwest by the aforesaid Dockyard, and by the portion of the district of Mazagon lying between the said Dockyard and the south end of Lawrence di Lima Street, and thence along the north side of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Goods Station at Warce Bunder to the main line of the said Railway at Mazagon Bridge; on the west by the line of the said G. I. P. Railway Company to Carnac Overbrige, thence by the old sea wall to opposite Fort George, by the east boundary of Fort George, by the eastern Boulevard to the Mint, by

the eastern boundary of the Mint and the Castle to the southern Bastion of the Castle. Thence by a straight line to the north corner of the Custom house at Marine Street, and by Marine Street and Colaba Road to Grant Buildings; and on the south by the Arthur Basin.

The Reclamation and Basin in front of the Gun Carriage Factory.—Bounded on the north by the property of the Apollo Press Company, and by Lower Colaba, on the west by Lower Colaba and the Colaba Road, and on the south by the Colaba Land Company's property.

The Government Foreshore south of the property of Messrs. Sassoon & Co., to Colaba Point; and bounded on the west partly by the Colaba Road, partly by Government land occupied by private individuals, and partly by Government properties.

The Government Foreshore in Back Bay from Colaba Point to Malabar Point.—Bounded on the east partly by Government land occupied by private individuals and partly by Colaba Road and the Esplanade and the Queen's Road, and on the west and north partly by the Queen's Road and Malabar Hill Road, and partly by private properties.

Scale of Fees for Landing, Shipping, Wharfage, Cranage, Storage, or Demurrage of Goods, and for permission for Vessels or Boats to approach or be alongside, and for Animals or Vehicles carrying goods and merchandize to or from, or entering upon or plying for hire at or on the Government Bunders, Wharves, Landing-places, Piers, or Hards above referred to.

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate. Rs. a. p.
1	Alum	Per ton	0 12 0
2	Arrowroot	Do.	0 9 0
3	Apparel, wearing	Per package or case	0 2 0
4	Bangles, Foreign	Per case	0 2 0
5	Do. Country	Per package	0 1 0
6	Bardans, old (Gunny Bags)	Per bundle	0 1 0
7	Bark	Per ton	0 12 0
8	Boads	Per case	0 2 0
9	Beef or Pork	Per tierce	0 4 0

No.	Articles.	How charged.	Rate. Rs.	a.	p.
10	Beef or Pork	Per barrel	0	2	0
11	Beer and Porter	Per hogshead	0	4	0
12	Do.	Per case or cask under 3 doz	0	2	0
13	Do.	Do. over 3 doz.	0	4	0
14	Betel-leaves	Per package	0	0	6
15	Betel-nuts	Per ton	0	9	0
16	Boats, Jolly-boats	Each	0	8	0
17	Do. Hodys	Do.	0	6	0
18	Bones	Per ton	0	9	0
19	Brassware	Do.	0	12	0
20	Bread	Do.	0	12	0
21	Bricks, Foreign	Per thousand	1	8	0
22*	Do. Country	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
23	Brooms	Per hundred	0	2	0
24	Bullion	Per box	0	8	0
25	Cadjans	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
26	Candles	Per box	0	1	0
27	Cane (Rattans)	Per ton	0	9	0
28	Cardamoms	Do.	1	4	0
29	Carriages (4-wheeled)	Each	4	0	0
30	Do. (2-wheeled)	Do.	3	0	0
31	Casks, empty	Do.	0	1	0
32	Cement	Per ton	0	8	0
33	Chaff	Do.	0	4	0
34	Chalk	Do.	0	6	0
35*	Charcoal	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
36	Cheese	Per case or package	0	2	0
37	Do.	Per dozen	0	3	0
38	Chcroots.—*See* Tobacco.				
39	Chillies	Per ton	0	9	0
40	Chinaware	Per case measuring over 4 cubic feet	0	3	0
41	Do.	Do. under do.	0	2	0
42	Do.	Per dozen rolls, large	0	3	0
43	Do.	Do. small	0	1	6
44*	Chunam, loose	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
45*	Do. in packages	Per ton	0	8	0
46	Cinnamon	Do.	1	0	0
47*	Clay	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
48*	Do. Fire	Per ton	0	8	0
49*	Coal and Coke	Do.	0	2	0
50	Coffee	Do.	0	9	0
51	Coir, loose	Do.	0	9	0
52	Confectionery	Per case	0	2	0
53	Copperware	Per ton	0	12	0
54	Copra	Do.	0	9	0
55	Cotton	Per bale	0	1	0

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate. Rs.	a.	p.
56	Cotton	Per dokra	0	0	6
57	Cowries	Per ton	0	12	0
58	Cuppas (mat bags)	Per hundred	0	4	0
59	Dammer	Per ton	0	9	0
60	Dinner leaves	Per thousand	0	1	0
61	Drugs	Per ton	0	12	0
62	Dubbers, empty	Per hundred	0	10	0
63	Dyes	Per ton	0	12	0
64	Earthenware, English	Per crate or cask measuring over 40 cubic ft	0	8	0
65	Do. do.	Do. under do.	0	4	0
66*	Do. Country	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
67	Ebony	Per ton	0	12	0
68	Eggs	Per basket or pot	0	1	0
69	Fans	Per case	0	2	0
70*	Firewood	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
71	Fireworks	Per case of 1 picul (131 lbs.) and over	0	2	0
72	Do.	Per case under 1 picul	0	1	0
73	Fishmaws and Sharkfins	Per ton	0	12	0
74	Fish, Salt and dried	Per register ton of vessel	0	4	0
75*	Do. Fresh	Do. do.	0	2	0
76	Do. do. being part of miscellaneous cargo	Per coolie load	0	0	6
77	Flax	Per ton	0	12	0
78	Fruits, Dried, from Cabul	Per package	0	6	0
79	Do. Dates, wet and dried	Per ton	0	12	0
80	Do. Cocoanuts	Per thousand	0	2	6
81	Do. Dried or preserved	Per ton	0	12	0
82*	Do. and Vegetables, fresh	Per register ton of vessel	0	6	0
83	Do. do. when part of a miscellaneous cargo	Per cart load	0	4	0
84	Do. do. do.	Per coolie load	0	0	6
85	Gallnuts	Per ton	0	6	0
86	Garlic	Do.	0	9	0
87	Ghee	Do.	0	0	0
88	Glassware	Per crate or cask	0	8	0
89	Do.	Per small case	0	4	0
90	Glass for window panes	Per box	0	0	9
91	Goglets (i.e., earthen vessels)	Per hundred	0	5	0
92	Gold-leaf	Per box	0	0	6
93	Grain	Per candy of 8 pharas	0	2	0
94	Do. Bhat (i.e., rice with husk)	Per candy of 25 pharas	0	3	0
95	Do. Bran and Husk	Per candy of 8 pharas	0	1	0
96	Grease	Per ton	0	12	0
97	Grinding Stones	Each	0	0	6
98	Gums	Per ton	0	12	0
99	Gunnies	Per bale	0	6	0

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate. Rs. a. p.
100	Gunnies	Per bundle of 50	0 0 9
101	Hams	Per box or case	0 2 0
102	Do. loose	Per dozen	0 3 0
103	Hardware	Per ton	0 8 0
104*	Hay and Straw	Per register ton of vessel	0 4 0
105	Do. pressed bales.	Each	0 0 6
106	Hemp	Per ton	0 12 0
107	Hides	Per hundred	0 8 0
108	Horns	Per ton	0 12 0
109	Horses.—*See* Live Stock.		
110	Ivory	Do.	0 12 0
111	Indigo	Do.	0 12 0
112	Jars, China	Per hundred, large	2 0 0
113	Do. do.	Do. small	1 0 0
114	Jagree	Per ton	0 9 0
115	Jewellery	Per box or case	0 2 0
116	Jute	Per ton	0 9 0
117	Kerosine	Per case	0 2 0
118	Lac	Per ton	0 12 0
119	Lacquered ware	Per package	0 2 0
120	Leather	Per bundle	0 1 0
121	Lemon Juice	Per hogshead	0 4 0
122	Lignum vitæ	Per ton	0 8 0
123	Liquorice Root	Do.	0 12 0
124	Live Stock :—		
	Horses, Cows, and Buffaloes	Each	0 4 0
125	Calves and Pigs	Do.	0 2 0
126	Goats and Sheep	Per hundred	1 8 0
127	Poultry	Per dozen	0 1 0
128	Luggage at Mazagon, Custom House, and Apollo Bunders	Per package	0 1 0
129	Do. at any other Bunder	Per cart load	0 4 0
130	Do. do.	Per coolie load	0 0 3
131*	Machinery	Per ton	0 8 0
132	Masts, for boats	Each	0 4 0
133	Matches	Per case	0 2 0
134	Mats, Country	Per hundred	0 3 0
135	Do. do.	Per bundle	0 0 6
136	Do. China	Per package	0 2 0
137*	Metals—Iron, bar Do. hoop Do. rod Do. sheet	Per ton	0 5 0
138*	Do. other than the foregoing, and including Railway materials	Do.	0 8 0
139	Mother-o'-Pearl Shells	Do.	0 12 0
140	Naphtha	Per case or carboy	0 2 0

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate. Rs. a. p.
141	Nails	Per ton	0 8 0
142	Nets, new, fishing	Each	0 2 0
143	Nitric Acid	Per case or carboy	0 4 0
144	Nutmegs	Per ton	1 0 0
145	Ochre	Do.	0 12 0
146	Oil, castor, cocoanut, gingelly, and other sorts	Do.	0 12 0
147	Do. in bottles	Per case	0 2 0
148	Do. Sandalwood	Per case or pot	0 4 0
149	Oilman's Stores	Per case of 3 dozens and over	0 2 0
150	Do.	Do. under 3 dozens	0 1 0
151	Opium	Per chest	0 8 0
152	Do.	Per half-chest	0 4 0
153	Paints	Per ton	0 12 0
154	Palanquins	Each	0 8 0
155	Paper	Per case or bale	0 2 0
156	Papurkhar (Soda)	Per ton	0 9 0
157	Pearls, false	Per case	0 2 0
158	Pepper	Per ton	0 9 0
159	Pianofortes	Each	2 0 0
160	Pickles, in jars and pots	Do.	0 0 6
161	Piece Goods, Cotton	Per bale or case under 12 cubic feet	0 2 0
162	Do. do.	Per bale or case over 12 cubic feet	0 4 0
163	Do. and Shawls, Silk,	Per bale or case	0 4 0
164	Pitch and Tar	Per ton	0 12 0
165	Pork.—*See* Beef.		
166	Porter.—*See* Beer.		
167	Precious Stones	Per case	0 2 0
168	Preserves—Ginger and other.	Per case measuring over 4 cubic feet	0 2 0
169	Do. do.	Do. do. under do.	0 1 0
170	Provisions, Fresh	For use on board ship	Free.
171	Quicksilver	Per bottle	0 0 6
172	Quinine	Per case	0 1 0
173	Reeds	Per bundle	0 0 6
174	Rope and Twine	Per ton	0 12 0
175	Rose Flowers	Do.	0 12 0
176	Rose Water	Per carboy	0 1 0
177	Do.	Per case	0 3 0
178	Rosin	Per ton	0 12 0
179*	Salt, Country	Per register ton of vessel	0 4 0
180*	Do. English	Per ton	0 4 0
181	Saltpetre	Do.	0 12 0
182*	Sand, if deposited on the wharf	Do.	0 2 0
183*	Do. if deposited on the hard.	Do.	0 1 0

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate. Rs. a. p.
184	Sandalwood	Per ton	0 9 0
185	Sapanwood	Do.	0 9 0
186	Seeds	Do.	0 9 0
187	Shoes	Per case or package	0 3 0
188	Shooks (*i.e.*, barrel staves)	Per bundle	0 0 6
189	Silk, raw	Per case	0 2 0
190	Silverware	Do.	0 8 0
191	Soap, Country	Per ton	0 12 0
192	Do. Foreign	Per case	0 1 0
193	Spices, other than those specified	Per ton	0 12 0
194*	Stones, except ballast	Per register ton of vessel	0 6 0
195*	Do ballast	Per boat under 25 tons	1 0 0
196*	Do. do.	Do. over 25 tons and under 50 tons	2 0 0
197*	Do. do.	Do. over 50 tons	2 8 0
198	Sugar	Per ton	0 12 0
199	Tanks	Under 30 cubic feet each	0 4 0
200	Do.	Over 30 do. do.	0 8 0
201	Tar.—*See* Pitch.		
202	Tea	Per chest	0 2 0
203	Do.	Per half-chest	0 1 0
204	Tents, double-poled	Each	1 0 0
205	Do. single-poled	Do.	0 8 0
206*	Tiles	Per register ton of vessel	0 6 0
207*	Timber	Per ton of 50 cubic feet.	0 8 0
208*	Do. Rafters	Per score, by raft	0 5 0
209*	Do. Rafters or Bamboos	Per register ton of vessel	0 6 0
210	Tobacco, Foreign	Per case	0 2 0
211	Do. Country	Per ton	0 12 0
212	Do. Cheroots	Per case	0 2 0
213	Turpentine	Per case of 10 gallons	0 2 0
214	Do.	Do. under 10 gallons	0 1 0
215	Twist, Cotton	Per bale	0 2 0
216	Umbrellas	Per case	0 2 0
217	Varnish	Do.	0 1 0
218	Vegetables.—*See* Fruit.		
219	Watches and Clocks	Per large case	0 8 0
220	Do. do.	Per small case	0 4 0
221	Wines and Spirits, Foreign	Per pipe, butt, or puncheon	0 8 0
222	Do. do. do.	Per hogshead or cask	0 4 0
223	Do. do. Country	Per hogshead	0 2 0
224	Do. do. Foreign	Per case of 3 dozens and under	0 2 0
225	Do. do. do.	Do. over 3 dozens	0 4 0
226	Wire—brass, iron, or copper	Per ton	0 12 0
227	Wooden Dishes	Per score	0 3 0

No.	Articles.	How Charged.	Rate.
			Rs. a. p.
228	Wool, Cabul	Per bale	0 4 0
229	Do. Sciude	Do.	0 3 0
230	Do. Bussorah	Do.	0 2 0
231	Woollens	Per bale or case	0 2 0
	Re packing Goods on the Bunder	Per package	0 0 6
	Weighing Goods on front of the Wharf	For space occupied by scales, per diem	0 8 0
	Weighing Goods on other parts of the Bunder	Do. do. do.	0 6 0
	Goods in bulk; not specified	Per ton weight or measurement	0 12 0
	Do. packed; do.	Per bale, case, or package measuring over 12 cubic feet	0 2 0
	Do do. do	Do. under 12 do	0 1 0
	Do. not specified, if unpacked and no weight given	Per cart load	0 8 0
	Do. do. do.	Per coolie load	0 0 6
	Transhipping Goods in any of the Basins		Half wharfage fees.

All duty-free goods marked * not removed from the Wharf front, or from the roads or sheds within three days, or from any other portion of the Bunders within five days from the time of depositing, will be charged rent at the rate of Rs. 30 per Catty of 500 square feet per mensem.

All other duty-free goods not removed as above, will be charged rent at the rate of the respective fees for each three or five days respectively.

Dutiable goods will not be charged rent on the Wharf front till after 48 hours, or on other parts of the Bunders till after seven days from date of landing—thereafter rent as above.

Tonnage Fees on Boats, Basin Rent, and Miscellaneous Charges.

Cargo Boats up to 25 tons	Per mensem per boat	0 8 0
Or do. do.	Per trip	0 4 0
Do. over 25 tons	Per mensem per boat	1 0 0
Or do. do.	Per trip	0 8 0
Coasting Vessels arriving at or departing from any Government Bunder with cargo	Per registor ton of vessel, each trip	0 1 0

Articles.	How Charged.				Rate.		
					Rs.	a.	p.
Tonage fee on Vessels after first 7 days, if under 20 tons	Per diem				0	8	0
Do. do. over 20 and under 30 tons	Do.				0	12	0
Do. do. above 30 tons	Do.				1	8	0
		First Day. Rs.	a.	p.	Each succeeding day.		
Vessels using the Hards south of the Mazagon Co.'s Reclamation, for oiling and repairing	Tonies	0	6	0	0	3	0
Do. do. do.	Bumboats and Jolly boats	0	9	0	0	3	0
Do. do. do.	Boats from 10 to 20 tons	1	2	0	0	9	0
Do. do. do.	Do. from 20 to 50 tons	2	4	0	0	12	0
Do. do. do.	Do. from 50 to 100 tons	3	0	0	1	8	0
Do. do. do.	Do. over 100	6	0	0	3	0	0
Boats on the slope	One-fourth more.						
					Per mensem.		
Vessels using the Hards for breaking-up	Per ton				0	4	0
Vessels using the Hards *north* of the Mazagon Company's Reclamation for the above purposes, one-sixth of the foregoing rates.							
Timber deposited on the Hard.	Per ton p. annum				0	4	0
		Per mensem.			Per diem.		
Boats landing and embarking passengers (to include the privilege of carrying cargo to and from the bunders)	Hody each	1	0	0	0	1	0
Do. do. do.	Mutchwa, Dingy, or Jolly-boat	2	0	0	0	2	0
Do. do. do.	Bullow	3	0	0	0	3	0
Do. do. do.	Prao	5	0	0	0	4	0
Ships' Boats		Free.					
					Each trip		
Boats coming to the Bunders for water	Small boats				0	2	0
Do. do. do.	Cargo boats				0	4	0
Do. do. do.	Coasting vessels, 25 tons and under				0	8	0
Do. do. do.	Do. over 25 & under 40 tons				0	12	0
Do. do. do.	Do. over 40 tons				1	0	0
Each loaded cart entering to or passing from any of the Bunders, including the Elphinstone and Moody Bay Land Estates					0	0	3
With the option of commuting the toll by a payment of One Rupee per cart per mensem.							

Cranage Fees.

Articles.	How Charged.	Rate.
		Rs. a. p.
Live Stock :—		
Horses, Cows, Buffaloes	Each	0 8 0
Calves.....	Do.	0 4 0
All Goods, by hand crane (without labour).....	Per ton	0 8 0
Do. by steam crane.....	Do.	0 14 0
Do. lifted from the Wharf into carts or trucks, by hand crane (without labour).....	Do.	0 6 0
Do. do. by steam crane ...	Do.	0 12 0

Ground Rent, Shed Rent, and Warehouse Rent will be charged at such rates as may be arranged with the Traffic Manager.

(*Note.*—Four register candies equal 1 ton.)

J. S. TREVOR, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 22nd February 1871.

APPENDIX R.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
20th December, 1870.

To M. BALFOUR, ESQ.,
Secretary and Treasurer New Bank of Bombay, Limited.

J. F. MOIR, ESQ.,
Agent Oriental Bank Corporation, and the other Bank Agents in Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by the Committee of Management of the Chamber of Commerce to ask you to be so good as to nominate a Committee of your body to consult with the Committee of the Chamber, on some convenient day after the holidays, in regard to fixing the holidays to be kept during the ensuing year.

I am, &c.,
JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,
Bombay, 10*th January*, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—At a meeting of the representatives of the Banks held here yesterday, a Committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. Balfour, Mr. Campbell, and myself, to confer, as suggested, with the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of holidays. It was the opinion of the meet-

ing that the holidays for the whole current year should not be fixed at once, as various circumstances, such as alterations in the despatch of Mails, might occur to derange such a programme ; but that we should from time to time, as the usual holidays draw near, settle their dates and duration in concert with a Committee of the Chamber, whose wishes and convenience in the matter we are very desirous of consulting.

Trusting that this will meet the wishes of the Committee,

I am, &c.,

J. MOIR.

No. 8 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
12th January, 1871.

J. F. MOIR, ESQ.,
Oriental Bank Corporation, Bombay.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of of the 10th inst., intimating that at a meeting of the representatives of the Banks held on the 9th inst. a Committee, consisting of yourself, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Campbell, was appointed to confer with the Committee of the Chamber on the subject of holidays, which I had the pleasure of submitting to the Committee of Management at their meeting yesterday.

In reply, I am directed to state that the views expressed in your letter entirely meet the wishes of the Committee of the Chamber on the subject in question.

I am, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,
Secretary.

APPENDIX S.

COTTON STATISTICS.

Return of Cotton Cultivation in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1870-71, *compared with that of the preceding Season,* 1869-70.

Zillah.	Cotton Crop for Season																Remarks by Collectors.
	1869-70.						1870-71.						Total Increase in 1870-71.		Total Decrease in 1870-71.		Total amount of Arable Land.		Total amount of Land capable of producing Cotton.		
	Extent of Cultivation in Acres.						Extent of Cultivation in Acres.														
	Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.		Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.										
	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	
Northern Division.																					
Ahmedabad	74	35	223,313	23	223,388	18	8	0	323,320	13	323,328	13	99,939	35	.....	...	1,784,504	20	941,565	5	No remark.
Kaira	.....	...	12,644	10	12,644	10	14	23	15,582	0	15,596	23	2,952	13	.....	..	823,802	1	236,642	6	Ditto.
Broach	216	27	223,643	29	223,860	16	.....	..	215,830	37	215,830	37	.....	...	8,029	19	736,606	22	651,313	12	Ditto.
Surat	No return received.																				
Khandeish	540,906	19	.....		540,906	19	611,031	1	.....	...	611,031	1	70,222	22	.....	...	3,609,483	33	2,397,013	18	"The cotton grown is Hingunghat, which is exotic to Khandeish."
Total	541,100	1	459,601	22	1,000,701	23	611,053	24	554,733	10	1,165,786	34	173,114	30	8,029	19	6,959,395	36	4,226,533	36	
Southern Division.																					
Ahmednuggur	6	1	26,232	32	26,238	33	0	34	32,204	35	32,205	29	5,966	36	.....	..	2,733,538	2	123,357	29	No remark.
Belgaum	7,567	33	205,672	1	213,239	34	13,150	16	165,167	17	178,317	35	.....	...	34,941	33	1,837,426	28	616,073	7	"This return is only approximate, as, in consequence of the late heavy rains, it is anticipated that land prepared for wheat and other cereals will be sown with cotton as late as possible."

Dharwar (including Savanoor & Hubles States).	435,495	32	222,135	37	657,214	26	285,296	30	195,306	37	530,600	36	.....		116,613	22	2,360,297	27	1,803,212	28	" The decrease is, I believe, attributable to the bad season of last year, in which the ryots lost much on their cotton cultivation. This has somewhat deterred them this year. Again, the low price of cotton enables cereals to compete profitably as an article of production. The season as far as it is gone has been exceedingly favourable, and good and abundant cotton crops are somewhat confidently looked for by the cultivators."
Kulladghee	25,543	8	572,279	3	597,822	11	11,875	4	379,245	39	391,121	3	.....		206,701	8	2,852,351	9	1,197,137	16	" The decrease in 1870-71 is owing to the rain not having fallen seasonably, and to the reduced rates at which cotton is sold, which deterred the ryots from sowing cotton to the same extent as last year "
Poona.....	200	20	41,537	5	41,737	25	2	0	27,070	0	27,072	0	.....		14,665	25	1,226,625	39	127,042	27	" The extent of ground under cotton cultivation this year is considerably less than that of last year, for want of a seasonable fall of rain."
Sattara (including Jagheer States).	208	9	79,526	25	79,735	13	329	26	49,887	35	50,217	21	.....		29,517	32	364,394	24	222,597	13	" The decrease in the cultivation is attributed partly to the heavy fall of rain during the sowing season, and partly to loss last year. It is feared the fall of rain in the last week of Oct. will have proved injurious to the crops."

Zillah.	Cotton Crop for Season														Remarks by Collectors.
	1869-70. Extent of Cultivation in Acres.						1870-71. Extent of Cultivation in Acres.				Total Increase in 1870-71.		Total Decrease in 1870-71.		Total amount of Arable Land.		Total amount of Land capable of producing Cotton.		
	Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.		Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.								
	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	
Sholapore	29	4	117,659	36	117,689	0	70	20	81,743	19	81,813	39	.....	...	35,875	1	2,001,247	19	259,350	38	"Owing to excessive rains last year, crops were damaged. This fact, and the recent excessive rains, have led the ryots to bring under cultivation a smaller amount of ground than last year."
Total	458,674	1	1,265,023	19	1,723,697	20	360,725	21	930,623	22	1,291,349	3	5,986	96	438,315	13	13,375,881	28	3,859,371	38	
Native States.																					
Akulkote	893	29	16,715	15	17,109	4	281	24	9,325	25	9,607	9	.....	...	7,501	35	257,542	0	52,148	0	"The failure of the cotton crop last year, owing to the excessive rain-fall, has doubtless proved the cause of the decrease in the cultivation this year."
Baroda	No return received.																				
Cutch	.....	...	213,333	13	213,333	13	.....	...	186,666	26	186,666	26	.....	...	26,666	27	1,450,666	26	597,333	26	"Exotic cotton is not sown in Cutch."
Kattawar	No return received.																				
Kolapore with Jamkhundee, Sanglee, and other States of S. M. Country.	79,433	34	186,925	7	265,659	1	72,328	17	127,623	26	199,952	3	.....	...	65,706	38	1,634,001	26	699,197	38	"Owing to a heavy fall of rain during the months of August and September, less cotton than usual was sown (in the Kolapore state) this year."

Mahee Kanta	No return received.																			
Pahlunpore	.....	...	A 36,957	0	36,957	0	.....	...	A 13,850	0	13,850	0	.....	...	23,007	0	B		B	
Rewa Kanta	149	0	7,096	25	7,245	25	149	0	7,495	35	7,644	35	399	10	.....	...	80,874	14	11,050	39
Total.....	79,976	23	460,227	20	540,204	3	72,759	1	344,961	32	417,720	33	399	10	122,882	20	3,423,084	26	1,359,730	18
Grand Total...	1,079,750	25	2,184,852	21	3,264,603	6	1,044,538	6	1,830,318	24	2,874,856	30	179,490	36	569,227	12	23,758,362	10	9,445,636	12

"A. These are necessarily rough calculations.

B. No Survey having taken place in the districts composing the Pahlunpore Superintendency, no reliable information could be obtained to fill in these columns.

No return from the Radhunpore State received up to date."

"The cotton crop this year promises well."

Khandeish Districts, Julgaum, 26th November, 1870.

G. F. FORBES,
Cotton Commissioner.

Remarks by the Cotton Commissioner.

On comparing the present returns from the Collectors with those received last year, the folloving discrepancies appear in the reported extent of land under cotton cultivation in 1869-70:—

		As reported last Year.	As shown in present Return.
Northern Division.....	Kaira	10,641 acres	12,644 acres
Southern Division.....	Ahmednuggur	23,769	26,238
	Belgaum	203,683	213,259
	Sattara.....	68,207	70,773
		306,300	322,914
	Showing a total difference of...		16,614 acres

The cotton area of 1869-70 for Sattara, as given in the accompanying general return, includes, as will be seen, the Jagheer States under that Collectorate. Regarding the extent of land under cotton in those States in 1869-70, no information was available last year; it is, however, now stated to have been 8,962 acres.

Amongst the returns received from the Political Officers for Native States, that for Kolapore shows a slight difference in the area under cotton in 1869-70 as compared with the figures published last year. The area reported last year was 264,949, while now it is stated at 265,659 acres.

Although no explanation has been submitted by the local officers regarding the above differences, I think the larger figures now reported may be accepted as generally correct, as it seems not improbable, especially in the case of Belgaum, where the largest difference occurs, that the increase may have arisen in the manner suggested by the Collector of that District in his present return, namely, that lands prepared for cereals may have been devoted to cotton later in the season, or since the return for 1869-70 was first submitted.

Surat is the only Collectorate for which no return for 1870-71 has yet been furnished. This omission, notwithstanding several calls from this office since September last, is much to be regretted, as it helps to put it out of my power to prepare such a complete return for the Presidency as could be desired.

Of the Native States I have as yet no returns from Baroda, Kattiawar, and Mahee Kanta; but, from the explanations given by the Political Officers, delay appears to have been

caused by the difficulty usually experienced in obtaining the required information from the Native Chiefs, a difficulty, however, which cannot be pleaded in regard to information relating to British territory.

The returns now published exhibit the following results in the Collectorates of both Divisions, Surat excepted :—

The cotton area of last year was	2,724,399 acres
Whilst that of 1870-71 is	2,457,135 ,,
Showing a decrease of	267,264 ,,

In the Native States entered in the present return, the very considerable States of Baroda and Kattiawar, besides the Mahee Kanta, being omitted, the area under cotton last year was 540,204 acres, whilst this year it is 417,720, showing a decrease of 122,484 acres.

Taking together the Collectorates and Native States for which returns have been received as above, we have a total extent of cotton cultivation this year amounting to 2,874,856 acres, against 3,264,603 last year, with a decrease, on the whole, of 389,747 acres.

An idea may be formed of the entire extent of cotton cultivation this season throughout the Presidency if we suppose there has been in the Districts not included in the present return a decrease corresponding with that shown above. The cotton area in those Districts in 1869-70 was as follows :—

Surat	56,345 acres
Sind	57,733 ,,
Baroda	183,640 ,,
Kattiawar	1,000,654 ,,
Mahee Kanta	2,500 ,,
Total.....	1,300,872 acres

The corresponding decrease calculated from these figures would be 155,305 acres, and the total results would be as follows :—

Breadth sown with Cotton in the Bombay Presidency in 1869-70 ...	4,565,475 acres
Ditto ditto ditto in 1870-71.....	4,020,422 ,,
Decrease.....	545,053 acres.

From the returns received, the falling off in the extent of land sown with cotton appears to be general, the only Districts in which an increase has taken place being

Ahmedabad, Kaira, and Khandeish, in the Northern Division; Ahmednuggur, in the Southern Division; and Rewa Kanta among the Native States.

In Ahmedabad and Khandeish there has been a very considerable increase over last year, amounting in the former District to 99,939, and in the latter to 70,222 acres.

It will be observed from the remarks quoted in the last column of the return that the decrease is attributed to the unseasonable rain this year, and also to the failure of last year's crop, and the low price of cotton, which causes are supposed to have operated as a discouragement to extensive cultivation this season.

In anticipation of the report to be published next January regarding the prospects of the crop, I would take this opportunity of submitting the following brief notice, founded upon the weekly reports of the District Officers of this Department, which have reached me up to the present time.

For the Southern Mahratta Districts I am in receipt of information up to the 19th instant. The commencement of the season was unfavourable for the sowing of cotton, which had consequently to be delayed till the middle of September. Heavy rain fell soon after, which continued throughout the month of October, and this is now proved to have had an injurious effect upon the young cotton plants. Latterly the appearance of the plants has generally improved, under the influence of mild weather, which has prevailed since the beginning of the present month; but they are still wanting in vigour, and do not seem likely to produce their usual average crop. The cultivators now calculate upon gathering three-fourths of a full crop, provided the present favourable weather continues.

In the Collectorate of Gujerat the present condition of the crop is reported to be generally favourable, and, on the whole, more than an average out-turn is expected The only Districts which it is feared will produce less than an average are the following:—(in the Ahmedabad Collectorate) Dhundooka and Gogo, which have suffered from the want of rain; (in Kaira) Borsud and Matur, in both of which, however, only a trifling extent of land (2,383 acres altogether) is devoted to cotton; and (in the Broach Zillah) Ahmodo, where only three-fourths of an average crop are looked for.

In reference to the Kattiawar Districts, Major Moore has submitted the following remarks, in a return dated the 17th instant :—"*Western Districts, Kattiawar.*—The cotton of these districts was rather injured by worms in some parts; the expected out-turn, therefore, is 13 annas on the average (that is 3-16th less than an average crop). *Gondul State.*—From inquiry it appears that the crop is in a good state: it has begun flowering and podding. *Wudwan.*—(7th November 1870.) Crop seems as last week, not in a good state, from want of rain. *Lemree.*—(14th November 1870.) Average prospect of cotton crop 12½ annas in the rupee, that is, half an anna less than last reported, owing to the cloudy weather, some of the flowers having fallen off."

Khandeish.—This cotton season in Khandeish has been earlier than that of last year; the sowing season was favourable, and the early prospects of the crop were exceedingly good. In the month of July, however, a period of rain set in, which continued for one month, ending 12th of August, and from the tender condition of the plants at that time, and the impossibility of removing the excessive growth of weeds and grass, the crop received a check from which it did not recover. The general impression amongst the cultivators is that the produce of the crop will be two annas in the rupee less than that of last year. As regards picking, the crop being an early one, more has been secured in the principal districts than was gathered up to the same period last year; and the cotton is also in better condition, being less stained and injured by worms.

Picking would be more general, especially in the smaller villages, except for the stagnation of trade, and the absence of any demand for cotton amongst the Soukars, upon whom the Koonbees are dependent for the ready means of carrying on their operations.

In Sind the season appears to have been, on the whole, favourable for cotton. The canals having filled well, the plants had a plentiful supply of water; and the crop, which is now in course of being picked, is expected to be above an average one.

G. F. FORBES,
Cotton Commissioner.

Khandeish Districts, Camp. Julgaum, 26th Nov., 1870.

No. 2,521 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 26th May, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, copy of a Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 1,060, dated the 2nd instant, and of the Statement, therewith submitted, of Cotton Cultivation in that Province for the year 1870-71, compared with that for 1869-70.

I have, &c.,
H. E. JACOMB,
For Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 1,060 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 2nd May, 1871.

Submitted to Government, in reference to their Resolution No. 2,679 of the 19th July 1867. The Statement shows a net increase of 2,168 acres 25 goontas in Native, and a decrease of 29 acres 12 goontas in Foreign Cotton.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Commissioner in Sind.

Statement of Cotton Cultivation in the Province of Sind during the year 1870-71, *contrasted with the extent in the previous year* 1869-70.

No.	Districts.	1869-70. Extent of Land Cultivated. Native Cotton.	Foreign Cotton.	Total.	No. of Saw Gins in use.	1870-71. Extent of Land Cultivated. Native Cotton.	Foreign Cotton.	Total.	No. of Saw Gins in use.	Prospect of Season's Crop. Raw Cotton.	Cleaned Cotton.	Remarks.
	Kurrachee Collectorate.	A. G.	A. G.	A. G.		A. G.	A. G.	A. G.		Mds. S.	Mds. S.	
1	Kurrachee	.....	80 21	80 21	.....	.....	14 0	14 0	.....	28 0	7 0	
2	Dadoo	3,721 29	3 21	3,725 10	.....	803 19	...	803 19	.....	965 26	329 30	
3	Sehwan	345 3	...	345 3	.....	330 20	...	330 20	.....	991 20	330 20	
4	Majandia	167 33	...	167 33	.....	69 0	...	69 0	.....	145 20	37 0	
5	Kotree	62 5	...	62 5	.....	134 12	...	134 12	.....	402 10	100 20	
6	Tatta	45 14	...	45 14	16	38 5	...	38 5	14	103 19	25 35	Decrease in Native Cotton ... A. G. 3,064 0
7	Sacra	5 2	...	5 2	.....	4 0	...	4 0	.....	3 10	0 32	Do. in Foreign do. ... 20 17
8	Ghorabaree	1 1	0 15	1 16	.....	.....	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	
9	Meerpoor Buttoro	106 2	...	106 2	70	47 9	...	47 9	82	236 5	80 1	
10	Beyla	72 13	...	72 13	13	44 25	...	44 25	7	89 10	22 12	
11	Jatee	12 31	...	12 31	2	3 28	...	3 28	2	9 30	3 10	
12	Shahbunder	0 2	...	0 2	.....	0 17	...	0 17	.....	.....	.....	
	Total	4,539 15	34 17	4,573 32	101	1,475 15	14 0	1,489 15	105	2,994 30	937 0	
	Hyderabad Collectorate.											
1	Hyderabad	4,398 33	20 0	4,418 33	1,780	6,534 7	...	6,534 7	2,645	49,371 0	15,856 37	
2	Coonee	659 21	0 12	659 33	210	1,067 38	...	1,067 38	260	4,272 0	1,424 0	
3	Saddeen	379 36	...	379 36	100	225 0	...	225 0	143	1,107 0	263 0	
4	Doga Tanda	372 19	...	372 19	150	442 24	...	442 24	200	2,873 0	750 0	
5	Hera Mohbut	2,814 13	...	2,814 13	500	2,868 11	...	2,868 11	685	12,828 0	4,276 0	
6	Hala	5,000 0	1 23	5,001 23	1,145	5,150 0	13 0	5,163 0	1,202	50,165 0	12,542 0	
7	Hyderabadpoor	5,185 8	...	5,185 8	915	5,333 28	...	5,333 28	921	30,895 25	10,329 37	Increase in Native Cotton ... 5,561 14
8	Alyar-ka-Tanda	6,671 31	...	6,671 31	2,120	8,366 7	...	8,366 7	2,223	77,843 22	25,979 30	Decrease in Foreign do. ... 8 35
9	Meerpoor	3,054 0	...	3,054 0	800	4,840 0	...	4,840 0	1,000	28 800 0	9,600 0	
10	Nowsera	1,150 0	...	1,150 0	300	1,460 0	...	1,050 0	304	3,643 0	953 0	
11	Kumbara	1,026 37	...	1,026 37	176	614 0	...	614 0	154	3,586 0	950 0	
12	Mirs	517 5	...	517 5	70	476 0		473 0	97	1,682 0	416 0	
13	Soukirund	961 16	...	961 16	400	640 0		640 0	161	6,400 0	2,133 0	
	Total	32,200 21	22 25	32,225 16	8,200	37,767 35	13 0	37,780 35	9,996	2,73,466 7	85,473 22	

No.	Districts.	1869-70 Extent of Land Cultivated. Native Cotton.	Foreign Cotton.	Total.	No. of Saw Gins in use.	1870-71 Extent of Land Cultivated. Native Cotton.	Foreign Cotton.	Total.	No. of Saw Gins in use.	Prospect of Season's Crop. Raw Cotton.	Cleaned Cotton.	Remarks.
	Shikarpoor Collectorate.	A. G.	A. G.	A. G.		A. G.	A. G.	A. G.		Mds. S.	Mds. S.	
1	Larkmana	4,039 0		4,039 0		3,774 27		3,774 27		1,859 0	573 0	
2	Bolree	6,544 0		6,544 0	No return.	6,691 3		6,691 3	No return.	3,345 0	940 0	
3	Shikarpoor and Sukkur	2,387 0		2,387 0		2,765 33		2,765 33		1,922 0	480 0	Decrease in Native Cotton... A. G. 52 20
4	Mehur	3,163 0		3,163 0		2,848 37		2,848 37		1,753 0	321 0	
	Total	16,133 0		16,133 0		16,080 20		16,080 20		8,879 0	2,314 0	
	Frontier, Upper Sind.											
1	Thool	347 16		347 16	135	338 14		338 14	140	1,227 10	409 10	
2	Kusmore	879 38		879 38	77	886 10		886 10	79	2,573 7	857 29	Do. do. 3 6 9
3	Jacobabad	751 23		751 23	153	356 4		356 4	122	900 0	397 20	
	Total	1,978 37		1,978 37	365	1,580 28		1,580 28	341	4,700 17	1,664 19	
	Thurr and Parkur Districts											
1	Gomerecote	1,023 0		1,023 0	130	1,023 0		1,023 0	75	1,500 0	1,500 0	
2	Chachera	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	
3	Kippra	268 0		268 0	50	350 0		350 0	60	250 0	340 0	Increase in do. 122 0
4	Ranghur	240 0		240 0	20	289 0		280 0	15	300 0	400 0	
5	Nuggur	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	
6	Deepla	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	
7	Mittee	.....		.....	.....	.....		.....	.....	.....	.....	
	Total	1,531 0		1,531 0	200	1,663 0		1,653 0	150	2,050 0	2,240 0	Do. do. 2,168 10
	Grand Total	56,388 33	56 12	56,445 5	8,874	58,557 18	27 0	58,584 18	10,591	2,92,090 14	92,629 1	Decrease in Foreign Cotton.. 29 12

N.B.—The Saw Gins in use are the common Native Churkas.

W. L. MEREWETHER, Colonel,
Commissioner in Sind.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 2nd May 1871.

No. 2,522 of 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Bombay Castle, 26th May 1871.

Submitted to the Government of India.

F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Cotton Exports and the Cotton Crop 1870-71—*Central Provinces and Berars.*

Stations.	Exports for Fortnight ending 18th June 1871.			Total Exports up to 18th June 1871.			Total Exports up to 18th June 1870.		
	Full Pressed Bales.	Half Pressed Bales.	Dokras.	Full Pressed Bales.	Half Pressed Bales.	Dokras.	Full Pressed Bales.	Half Pressed Bales.	Dokras.
Nagpore	.....	.....	.....	.....	179	.....	.....	318	920
Wurdah	709	133	.....	11,861	5,504	278	9,856	10,760	25
Poolgaum	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,079	.....	.....	6,188	487
Chandoor	.....	.....	.....	.....	321	.....	.....	1,368	703
Pudnaira	.....	24	.....	17,936	4,455	8	37,986	11,955	132
Oomrawtee	1,008	87	.....	41,892	3,132	.....	.....	.....	.....
Moorteinpoor	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,220	2,445	.....	11,040	2,031
Akolah	.....	.....	.....	.....	441	103	.....	3,200	783
Shaugaum	.....	304	107	12,499	22,271	2,317	18,922	10,691	5,477
Khaugaum	2,942	812	49	80,+94	4 418	4,094	37,948	2,453	2,307
Nandoorah	.....	.....	.....	625	2,076	249	19,675	5,179	1,307
Mulkapore	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,822	.....	.....	1,818
Joorhanpore	.....	.....	900	.....	.....	8,973	.....	.....	6,084
Khundwa	.....	.....	1,870	.....	.....	13,92*	.....	.....	10,406
Sewnee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	885	.....	.....	649
Nohagpore	.....	.....	268	.....	.....	13,876	.....	.....	7,211
Garrawarra	.....	.....	531	.....	.....	7,210	.....	.....	7,462
Ragrah	.....	.....	132	.....	.....	2,002	.....	.....	.....
Warungpore	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	.....	.....
Bunkeary	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	153	.....	.....	.....
Mursee	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	597	.....	.....	818
Total	4,659	1,360	3,757	1,65,707	56,090	59,919	1,23,790	69,321	49,615

	Totals. 1870-71.		In Bales of 3¼ Cwt. 1869-70.	
Full Pressed	165,707		123,790	
Half Pressed	56,+96		69,321	
Dokras	59,949 =	19,983	49,615 =	16,538
	3		3	
	241,786		209,649	

A. J. DUNLOP,
Assistant Cotton Commissioner West Berar.

Akolah, 21*st June* 1871.

Dated Allahabad, 19th July 1871.

FROM HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, ESQ., C.S.,
Cotton Commissioner.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Bombay.

EXTRACT.

As the season for selling and exporting cotton in the Central Provinces and the Berars has come to a close, and the season for cultivating the crop, with all its anxieties, is now upon us, I follow the usual practice, and forward for the information of your Chamber a report on the state of the weather during the last six weeks, together with the opinions of the officers in the cotton districts of Central India on the prospects of the growing crop.

* * * * *

3. It will not have escaped the notice of your Chamber, from the reports duly submitted by this Department, that at the end of the month of May last, when the season may be said to have closed, the total quantity of cotton exported from the railway stations of the Central Provinces and the Berars to Bombay amounted to about 235,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, and that thus the estimates framed by the officers of this Department and submitted to your Chamber have not turned out to be very incorrect.

4. Before quoting from the reports of the Assistants on the state of the weather and the prospects of the crop, it will, I think, be convenient to try and indicate as clearly as possible the tracts to which these reports refer. The subject has, it is true, been fully explained from time to time in my several annual reports, but as copies of these reports may not always be at hand, an approximate statement of the area sown with cotton in each division, and the quantity usually available for export, will, it is hoped, help to convey a sufficiently correct idea of the probable effect of a favourable or unfavourable season in the circles treated of in the reports of the Assistants which will be hereafter quoted.

5. The following table gives the area sown with cotton in the Districts of the Central Provinces and the Berars during the past season, and as during the last few years, although a

slight increase has generally been noticed, no very great variation has occurred in this acreage, these figures may be taken to represent with sufficient accuracy the area sown during the present year. The figures of the current season will not be received from the district authorities until later in the year. They will, however, be forwarded without delay to your Chamber as soon as received.

6. The cotton-sowing season in the districts of Central India, to which this report chiefly relates, commences, as your Chamber knows full well, immediately after the setting in of the monsoon, or rainy season. According to native calculation, the rainy season commences on the 1st day of the month of Mroog, which falls on the 5th of our month of June, and my reports submitted during former years will have shown you the correctness of this calculation, and that heavy rain generally sets in in the Wurdah and Poornah Valleys between the 5th and 15th of the month.

Statement showing approximately the Area under Cotton Cultivation in the Central Provinces and the Berars; and the Quantity of Cotton Annually Exported.

Divisions.	Districts.	Acres.	Quantity of Cotton annually exported (in bales of 400 lbs.)
CENTRAL PROVINCES.			
NAGPORE	Nagpore	96,287	These districts send about 30,000 bales to Bombay from the markets of Hingunghat, Arvee, Wurdah, and Deolee. Much cotton is consumed locally.
	Bhundara	...	
	Chandah	57,527	
	Wurdah	181,119	
	Balaghat	...	
JUBBULPORE	Jubbulpore	33,894	Export about 15,000 bales. The trade used to be with Mirzapore, but is turning towards Bombay since the opening of the main line of the G. I. P. Railway. A considerable local consumption affects the exports.
	Saugor	28,730	
	Dumoh	18,900	
	Seonee	6,431	
	Mundlah	1,517	
NERBUDDA	Baitool	1,950	
	Chindwara	23,343	
	Hoshungabad	21,198	
	Nursingpore	53,378	
	Nimar	24,869	
CHUTTEESGURH	Raipore	77,250	These districts send some 7,000 bales to the Orissa country.
	Sumbulpore	75,750	
	Belaspore	65,974	
	Upper Godavery	719	
Total Central Provinces, Acres..		768,936	
THE BERARS.			
EAST BERAR	Oomraotee	361,210	These districts export all their cotton to Bombay. In round numbers the annual export amounts to about 80,000 bales, Oomraotee being the chief mart.
	Ellichpore	191,257	
	Woon	134,543	
WEST BERAR	Akola	446,498	Annual exports to Bombay about 140,000 bales, Khangaon and Akote being the chief markets.
	Booldana	291,762	
	Bassim	64,157	
Total, C. Provinces, Acres		768,781	
The Berars, Acres		1,489,427	
Total, C. P. and the Berars, Acres..		2,258,208	Total annual exports to Bombay from 200,000 to 275,000 bales, to other parts of India 10,00 bales.

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commissioner.

Allahabad, 19th July, 1871.

C Q 35

APPENDIX T.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. HIGH TARIFF VALUATION AND DUTY ON IMPORTED FLOUR.

No. 3,891 of 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

Bombay Castle, 14th August, 1871.

To THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Bombay.

SIR,—In forwarding the accompanying copies of the letters, noted in the margin, from Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co., as regards the existing tariff valuation and the rate of duty levied on importation of flour, I am directed to request you will be good enough to favour Government with the views of the Chamber of Commerce on the subject.

Letter from Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co., dated 27th September 1870.

Letter from Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co., dated 30th June 1871.

I have, &c.,

H. E. JACOMB,

Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay, 27th September 1870.

F. S. CHAPMAN, ESQ.,

Chief Secretary to Govt., Rev. Department,

Bombay.

SIR,—We have the honor to state that having lately received from Australia a consignment of 1,246 bags of wheaten flour of 200 lbs. per bag, we thereby had our attention called to the very excessive rate of Customs duty levied upon that article.

The rate of duty is 7½ per cent. upon a tariff valuation of Rs. 25 per bag of 200 lbs., while the market value for the article is Rs. 15 per bag of 200 lbs. (we sold at Rs. 15-4 per bag, the flour being of very excellent quality.)

We therefore respectfully submit that on such an article as flour, the rate of 7½ per cent. duty is, even under a proper valuation, very excessive, as flour is much more a necessity and a staff of life than, for instance, iron, which is admitted at a duty of *one* per cent. only. It is further well known that the native flour is of a very inferior quality. Owing, however, to the excellent American and Continental flour, as well as that of Australia being kept out of the market by the protective duty imposed, consumers are obliged to pay an exorbitant price for an inferior article, while the Customs revenue is not benefited, as the rate of duty simply puts a stop to importation and renders a duty levied for the benefit of the revenue but a prohibitory and protective impost.

By a reference to the latest annual statement of the trade, &c., of Bombay published for Government, and at page 36 it will be seen that the declared value of flour imported *from all Foreign* countries only amounted to Rs. 1,03,798, or a gross revenue to Government of Rs. 7,785. The market value of the flour imported, however (in the proportion of Rs. 15 to Rs. 25), would only amount to Rs. 62,280.

In other words, a duty of 12½ per cent., for that is what it comes to, upon one of the principal articles of food puts a stop to imports in it, and gives a revenue to Government so small as not to be worth the trouble of collecting.

We beg therefore respectfully to submit that, first, the tariff valuation upon flour ought to be reduced; second, the rate of duty ought also to be reduced to, say, 1 per cent. Were these points permitted, we believe Government would be no losers, and the country generally considerable gainers.

We have, &c.,

RENNIE, SCOVELL & Co.

P. S.—We believe that the present is a suitable opportunity for bringing this matter to the attention of Government, as we believe a Committee for revising the existing tariff is at present sitting in Calcutta.

Bombay, 30th June 1871.

F. S. CHAPMAN, ESQ.,
Secretary to Govt., Rev. Department,
Bombay.

SIR,—On the 27th of September last we had the honor of addressing your Department relative to the rate of *Duty levied upon Flour* imported into Bombay as per copy of our letter which, for convenience of reference, we beg to hand you herein.

We have not been favored with any reply to that communication, and we therefore beg leave to solicit your attention to it.

We may further state that since then addressing you, we have had communications from Australia, pointing out that the very excessive scale of charge in Bombay completely debars business between that country and this port, but that a modification to some such duty as that levied upon iron would enable business to be done.

We have, &c.,
RENNIE, SCOVELL & Co.

(True Copies.)
H. E. JACOMB,
Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 203 OF 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
4th September 1871.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the Chamber to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Under Secretary Jacomb's letter No. 3,891 of 1871, dated 14th ult., forwarding copies of letters to Government from Messrs. Rennie, Scovell and Co., on the subject of the existing tariff valuation, and the rate of duty levied on the importation of flour, and requesting the views of the Chamber thereon.

In reply, I am to state the Committee are strongly of opinion that the suggestions of Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co. well deserve the favorable consideration of Government. The experience of Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co. in the case stated, clearly shows that the present tariff value is about one-third too high, and there are other cases of a like character within the knowledge of the Committee. The statement also made regarding the probability of trade in the article of flour with Australia, with a reduced valuation and a low rate of duty, is, in the opinion of the Committee, a matter of no small importance: such a trade is deserving of all the encouragement it can receive by a liberal policy that would have the effect of inviting imports.

Foreign flour is not likely to be used by Hindoos, but to the large Parsee, Portuguese, and Mussulman populations—not to mention Europeans and the European troops throughout the Presidency—the importation of foreign flour, which is in all respects superior to the flour indigenous to the country, would be a great boon. In these circumstances the Committee desire respectfully to recommend to Government a reduction in the tariff valuation to at least a third below the present amount, and the rate of duty to one per cent., in the belief that by carrying out such a policy, Government will give an impetus to trade with an important British colony in a food product of great importance to a large body of the people, and in the course of a short time also thereby benefit the public revenue.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

No. 4,723 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

Bombay Castle, 23rd September 1871.

TO THE SECRETARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to your letter dated 4th instant, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Cham-

ber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a letter addressed by this Government to the Government of India, on the subject of the existing tariff valuation on imported flour and rate of duty levied thereon.

I have, &c.,

W. H. CROWE,
For Chief Secy. to Govt.

No. 4,721 OF 1871.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

Bombay Castle, 23rd September 1871.

FROM THE HONORABLE F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

To R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQ.,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Financial Department.

SIR,—In reply to your letter No. 2,474, dated 31st July last, I am directed to submit copies of the papers noted in the margin, containing the views of the Chamber of Commerce and the Commissioner of Customs, Bombay, on the subject of the existing tariff valuation on imported flour and rate of duty levied thereon.

Report by the Commissioner of Customs, No. 2,882, dated 17th August 1871.
Letter from the Chamber of Commerce, dated 4th instant.

2. His Excellency in Council is decidedly of opinion that this article is subject to too heavy imposts, and considers it very desirable that the trade should meet with every encouragement. He would, therefore, advocate a reduction both in the rate of duty and the tariff valuation.

3. "As a means of affording immediate relief, I am to suggest that under the authority vested in the Government of India by Section 6 of Act XIII. of 1871, the tariff valuation be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 16 per barrel. The reduction of the rate of duty may be taken into consideration

hereafter, if the relief that will thus be afforded to the trade should not be found sufficient.

I have, &c.,

F. S. CHAPMAN,

Chief Secretary to Government

No. 226 of 1871.

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

7th October 1871.

TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 4,723 of 1871, Revenue Department, dated 23rd ultimo, forwarding for the information of the Chamber copy of Government letter to the Government of India on the subject of the existing tariff valuation of imported flour, and rate of duty thereon.

In reply, I am respectfully to express the acknowledgments of the Committee to His Excellency in Council for impressing on the Government of India so promptly and so decidedly the necessity for a reduction both in the rate of duty and of the tariff valuation on imported flour. The Committee thoroughly approve of the recommendation of Government that the tariff valuation should be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 16 per barrel,—but they are strongly of opinion that unless there be at the same time a reduction in the rate of duty to 1 per cent. or 2 per cent., the main object in view, namely, encouragement to the importation of Colonial and Foreign flour,—will not be attained, and they trust His Excellency in Council will take the earliest opportunity of pressing this point on the consideration of the Government of India.

I have, &c.,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Secretary.

2. TRADE OF RUSSIA WITH INDIA AND CHINA VIA SUEZ CANAL.

No. 1,964-P.

FROM C. E. R. GIRDLESTONE, ESQ.,

Offg. Junior Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Bombay.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, POLITICAL.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay, a copy of a Memorandum on the probable effect of the opening of the Suez Canal on the trade of Russia with the East Indies, &c., drawn up by Mr. Thomas Michell from statements published in a report to the Society for the Promotion of Russian Trade by Mr. Shalkoffsky, who represented the Society at the opening of the Canal.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES GIRDLESTONE,

Offg. Jr. Under Secretary to Govt. of India.

Fort William, the 21st November, 1870.

Memorandum on the probable effect of the opening of the Suez Canal on the Trade of Russia with the East Indies, &c.

Drawn up by Mr. Thomas Michell from statements published in a Report to the Society for the Promotion of Russian Trade by Mr. Shalkoffsky, who represented the Society at the opening of the Suez Canal.

The Society for the Promotion of Russian Trade and Industry having requested Mr. Shalkoffsky, one of their members, to assist at the opening of the Suez Canal, that gentleman has recently presented the Society with a printed Report, of which the following is to a great extent merely an abstract:—

Distances.—Mr. Skalkoffsky points to Odessa as the port to which the trade of Russia with China, India, &c., will ultimately be attracted by the great advantages of the Canal route. Odessa is seldom frozen in winter, and will soon be connected by rail with the west of Europe. He expects that the merchandize of the far East will be transported thence to Moldavia, Wallachia, Galicia, East Prussia, Sweden, and other countries. The advantages of Odessa in respect to distance are shown as follows :—

	From Odessa via Suez.	Nearer than from Southampton round the Cape.
	Nautical Miles.	
To Bombay	3,948	6,792
„ Ceylon	4,588	5,912
„ Calcutta	5,688	5,912
„ Singapore	6,078	5,702
„ Hongkong	7,508	5,672

Odessa is nearer to Bombay than the following European ports, *viz.* :—

Trieste	by	152	Nautical	Miles.
Liverpool	„	2,060	„	„
London	„	2,076	„	„
Bremen	„	2,462	„	„
Cronstadt	„	3,412	„	„

Steamers can make the voyage from Odessa to Bombay in the following time, *viz.* :—

	Miles.	*Days.*
Odessa to Constantinople with stoppage there ...	352	
Constantinople to Port Said	780	
	1,132	7
Passage of Canal with stoppages		3
Suez to Aden	1,310	8
Aden to Bombay	1,510	8
Total days		26

A steamer will therefore take seven days less in performing the voyage between Odessa and Bombay than between Bombay and Southampton. At the same rate, the time that a steamer will take between Odessa and the more distant parts in India and China will be as follows :—

	N. Miles.	Days.
Odessa to Point de Galle	4,588	29
,, Calcutta	5,688	35
,, Singapore	6,078	37
,, Hongkong	7,508	43

East Indian cotton shipped at Bombay in sailing vessels reaches Moscow in the following number of days :—

	Days.
Bombay to London	110
London to St. Petersburg in steamer	14*
St. Petersburg to Moscow	4
Total ...	128

Whereas, if shipped to Odessa *via* Suez in a steamer, the time occupied would only be 33 days, thus :—

	Days.
Bombay to Odessa	27
Odessa to Moscow	6
Total ...	33

Or a gain of 95 days.

The following are the distances between Odessa and Moscow and St. Petersburg by rail now opened :—

	Verst.	Stat. Miles.
Odessa to Moscow	1,567½	1,045
,, St. Petersburg	2,171	1,447

Cost of Carriage.—The present mean cost of carrying Indian produce to St. Petersburg *via* the Cape of Good Hope and England is shown in the following Table :—

TABLE A.

Goods.	Freight. To London.	Freight. London to St. Petersburg.	Total mean freight to St. Petersburgh *via* the Cape.
	Per Ton.	Per Ton.	Per Ton.
Cotton (from Bombay)	30s. to 35s.	26s. 6d.	59s.
Tea (,, Calcutta)	60s.	20s.	80s.
Indigo (,, ,,)	75s.	40s.	115s.
Coffee (,, Bombay)	35s.	27s. 6d.	62s.
Pepper (,, ,,)	20s.	20s.	40s.
Dyo-wood (,, ,,)	20s.	30s.	50s.
Oil (,, Calcutta)	45s. to 50s.	30s.	77s. 6d.
Tin (,, Singapore)	40s. 6d.	22s.	62s. 6d.

* Inclusive of transhipment at Cronstadt, clearance at Custom House, &c.

In autumn the freights from London to St. Petersburg sometimes rise to 45s. a ton.

The carriage of the above goods to Moscow, the centre of the internal trade of Russia, is calculated to cost 55s. to 83s. 4d. per ton (33 copecks to 50 copecks per pood).*

Mr. Skalkoffsky shows that goods of a value of not less than £9-9-0 per ton will alone bear the present cost of carriage by the Canal, and that the greater part of the goods carried between India and Europe come under that category, excepting linseed, raw sugar, rice, jute, wood, iron, &c.

The present rate of freight from Bombay to Trieste by the Suez Canal is about £5 per ton, but it will necessarily fall when greater competition comes into play. Although Trieste is further from Bombay than Odessa, yet the freight per steamer to the latter port remains higher on account of the transit dues in the Bosphorus and the greater dearness of coal at Odessa. At the same time, it will always be more difficult to find a return cargo at Odessa than at Trieste.

The following is a complete list of the goods which Russia at present obtains from Egypt, Africa, East India, China, Japan, the Indian Archipelago, and Australia :—

Aniseed.
Arrowroot.
Assafœtida.
Camphor.
Cardamoms.
Cassia.
Catechu.
Caoutchouc.
Cigars, Manilla.
Cinnamon.
Cloves.
Clove-heads.
Cochineal.
Cocoa.
Coffee, Mocha.
,, Java.
,, Malabar.
,, Ceylon.
Cotton, Egyptian.
,, Bombay.
Australian copper.
Cubebs.
Dye-woods.
Dates.
Ebony-wood.
Ginger.
Gutta-percha.
Gums, various.
Indigo.
Ivory.
Mace.
Mother-o'-Pearl.
Nitre.
Nutmegs.
Nux vomica.
Oil, aniseed.
,, cassia.
,, castor.
,, cinnamon.
,, clove.
,, cocoanut.
,, palm.
Pepper.
Plumbago (Ceylon).

* The rouble has throughout been converted at the exchange of 32*d*. The present rate of exchange is 29*d*. to the rouble.

Porcelain (Japan and China).	Sal ammoniac.
Rice.	Senna leaves.
Rum.	Spices, various.
Rhubarb.	Shellac.
Sago.	Teak.
Sapan.	Tamarinds.
Safflower (Bengal).	Turmeric (Bengal).
,, (Bombay).	,, (Java).
Sulphur.	Tortoiseshell.
Silk, raw.	Tobacco.
,, spun.	Tea, Canton.
,, waste.	,, Japan
,, manufactured.	,, East Indies.
Wool.	

The greater part of the goods enumerated in the foregoing list are imported in very small quantities. The principal importations have been under the following heads since 1867 :—

Imported into Russia in 1867, *in* 1868, *in* 1869.

	Poods.*		
Cotton (over the European frontier)	2,535,991...	2,310,229 ...	2,973,634
Indigo	47,341...	47,087...	47,030
Silk, raw	5,593	6,035	14,807
,, spun	9,697...	8,090	
Rice	347,683...	385,541...	442,835
Sago	1,224...	1,944...	...
Coffee	407,193...	368,177...	466,665
Gum	78,541...	78,543	70,579
Caoutchouc	18,248...	30,364	
Tin	49,762...	50,407...	119,073
Pepper	80,155...	69,508	105,947
Ginger, clove-heads, mace	25,364...	16,193	
Cloves, cinnamon, nutmegs	12,290...	9,238...	9,488
Tea over European frontier	465,587...	584,785...	573,989
Copper	129,819...	179,733...	181,368
Dye-woods	470,474...	404,056...	523,322
Nitre	123,397...	52,517	Included
Gum benzoin	20,845...	19,965	under
Gall-nuts	16,004...	16,006	other
Plumbago	45,785...	14,945	heads.

On the assumption that one-third of the cotton shown above is Indian and half of the coffee from Java, &c., and without including some of the minor items, the total weight of Asiatic goods imported into Russia through Custom Houses on the European frontier is about 40,000 tons, of which a tenth part is brought to ports in the south of Russia.

* The Russian Pood is equal to 36·08lb. avoir.

The trade of those ports, and [illegible] will, however, be considerably improved by the communication now established with Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Mr. Skalkoffsky makes the following interesting observations respecting the goods of Asiatic origin consumed in Russia :—

1. *Cotton.*—Cotton is the most important article of trade between India and Russia. The quantity annually imported on the European frontier of Russia is nearly three million poods (48,000 tons). In 1868 a supply of 2½ millions was drawn from the following countries, *viz.* :—

From England	1,096,130	Poods.
,, Prussia	1,030,206	,,
,, Hanseatic towns	52,859	,,
,, Austria	12,737	,,
,, Turkey	2,916	,,
,, United States	115,253	,,
,, Roumania	128	,,

The cotton spinners of Russia purchase the raw material in Liverpool and London through their Agents at those ports, but the bulk of the cotton used in Russia, and particularly at Moscow, is imported by the Bremen House of L. Knoop, who have Agents at Bombay and New York.

It is chiefly imported at St. Petersburg (1,228,405 poods), but a considerable quantity (848,545 poods in 1868) is brought over the land frontier from Konigsberg.

East Indian and Egyptian cotton is now being brought direct to Russia by the Suez Canal route.

The use of Egyptian cotton is very limited in Russia owing to its price, and particularly from its high quality.

It is used for spinning numbers above 60, whereas the Russia mills chiefly produced the numbers between 6 and 42. It is, however, being more and more used in spinning fine yarns for mixed woollen goods.

The present price of Egyptian cotton at Moscow is R. 16 to R. 17 per pood (about £6-16-7 per cwt.), or between 1s. and 1s. 2d. per lb.

According to the Returns of the British Board of Trade, the cotton imported into Russia in 1867 had been derived from the following countries, *viz.* :—

[redacted]	...	...	...	205,435	cwt.
[redacted]	...	...	...	80,929	,,
[redacted]	...	...	...	3,629	,,
[redacted]	...	...	...	127,606	,,
[redacted]er countries	...	...	...	9,880	,,
		Total	...	427,470	cwt.*

Mr. Skalkoffsky states that the total quantity of Indian or Surat cotton now brought to Russia is 20,000 tons per annum. It is imported from Bremen as well as from Liverpool, and a small quantity comes in by way of Trieste, since the Railway traffic between that port and St. Petersburg has been reduced to 70 copecks per pood (5s. 9d. per cwt.)

The use of Surat cotton in Russia is constantly on the increase in the consumption of all cotton goods that are used by the masses of the people.

The yearly increase in the consumption of raw cotton in Russia is estimated by the manufacturers of Moscow at 3 per cent. It is now an article of prime necessity in Russia, and the slightest fall in its price has the most favourable effect on its consumption.

In 1869 the prices of East Indian cotton at St. Petersburg fluctuated between R. 12¼ and R. 14½ per pood (£5-1-4 and £6-0-0 per cwt).

In Moscow the prices are generally 50 copecks per pood (4s. 2d. per cwt.) higher.

The present cost of carrying East India cotton to Moscow is about 85 copecks per pood (7s. per cwt.), thus :—

To Liverpool *via* the Cape ...	... 30s.	to 50s.	per ton.
,, ,, Suez ...	... 60s.	to 80s.	,,
Liverpool to St. Petersburg, 20c. to 25c. per pood	... 33s. 4d.	to 41s. 8d.	,,
St. Petersburg to Moscow, 35c. per pood		58s. 4d.	,,

Taking the freight of cotton from Bombay to Odessa by the Suez Canal at £3 to £4 per ton and by rail from Odessa to St. Petersburg at 60 to 70 copecks per pood (5s. to 5s. 9d. per cwt), the cost of carriage by way of Suez will be slightly greater than *via* the Cape, Liverpool, and St. Petersburg, but the gain in time by the former route

* This estimate is probably based on the Russian Returns, with which it agrees.

will fully make up for the extra [illegible] Knoop, the great importer of cotton, is of [illegible] to 4,000 bales might at once be import[illegible] each month from Bombay by way of the Suez [illegible] Trieste or Odessa, and that as much as a million p[illegible] (16,500 tons) per annum will, in all probability, be imported into Russia by that route.*

The East Indian cotton that best suits the Russian market is the Sawginned Dharwar, both the "fair" and "good" qualities.

There is no duty on the importation of raw cotton into Russia.

2. *Indigo.*—Russia makes use of 47,087 poods (757 tons) of indigo each year. It is imported from the following countries :—

From	England	19,561	Poods.
„	Prussia	19,933	„
„	Italy	128	„
„	Holland	4,476	„
„	Greece	506	„
„	France	1,821	„
„	Austria	668	„

Indigo.—St. Petersburg is the centre of the Indigo trade of Russia, as more than 35,000 poods are annually brought to that port.

The prices of indigo were as follows in 1869 :—

At St. Petersburg—

Bengal...	R. 145 to R. 160 per pood	(£60 to £66-4 0 per cwt.)
Java ...	„ 135 to „ 180 „ „	(£55-17-0 to £74-9-0 „)
Name illegible in original.	115 to „ 125 „ „	(£47-11-7 to £51-14-5 „)

At Moscow—

Bengal ... R. 138 to R. 170 per pood (£57-1-9 to £70-8-9 per cwt.)

The Russian import duty on indigo is R. 3 per pood (29s. 6d. [at the par exchange] per cwt.)†

* A great increase has taken place within the last years in the importation of cotton from Central Asia, which is supposed to be capable of producing 3 million poods annually (48,000 tons), *viz.*, Bokhara, 2 million poods ; Khiva, ½ million ; independent Khanates, ½ million ; and Kokan, 300,000 poods. The price of raw cotton at Tashkent has this year been R. 550 per pood (45s. 8d. per cwt. at 32d.)

† The present rate of exchange is 29d. per rouble or mark, 24 per cent. below par. The above English quotations of the Customs duty should be reduced accordingly.

[redacted]nption of rice in Russia is com-[redacted]nt (*vide* Table A). The prices were as [redacted]the end of 1869 :—

[redacted]ETERSBURG—

[redacted]gal ... R. 2·40 to R. 3·20 per pood (19s. 10d. to 26s. 5d. per cwt.)
American. ,, 2·25 to ,, 3·50 ,, ,, (18s. 7d. to 29s. ,,)

AT ODESSA—

American. R. 2·20 to R. 2·40 per pood (18s. 4d. to 19s. 10d. per cwt.)
Italian ... ,, 2 60 (21s. 6d. ,,)

The Russian Customs duty on rice is 50c. per pood, or 4s. 11d. per cwt.*

4. *Coffee.*—Were it not for the competition of tea, coffee might become an article of great importance in a direct trade with the East. Nearly one-half of the coffee consumed in Russia is imported from England.

Notwithstanding a very considerable reduction of the duty on coffee (which is, since 1869, R. 1·50 per pood, or 14s. 8d. per cwt. at par), its importance is but slightly on the increase. It is mostly used by the German and Finnish population of Russia and by the higher classes. It is also extensively mixed with chiccory.

The prices of coffee were as follows in 1869 :—

AT ST. PETERSBURG—

Best ... R 13·75 to R. 17 per pood (113s. 8d. to 140s. 9d. per cwt.)
Middling. ,, 12·75 to ,, 13 75 ,, (105s. 5d. to 113s. 8d. ,,)
Ordinary. ,, 11·50 to ,, 12·75 ,, (90s. 2d. to 105s. 5d. ,,)

AT MOSCOW—

Round ... R. 14 to R. 15·15 per pood (115s. 10d. to 120s. per cwt.)
Inferior... ,, 12·50 to ,, 13·70 ,, (93s. 5d. to 113s. 7d. ,,)

AT ODESSA—

Ceylon ... R. 10·75 to R. 11 per pood (89s. to 91s. per cwt.)
Inferior... ,, 8 to ,, 9 ,, (66s. 2d. to 74s. 6d. ,,)

Ceylon coffee, of which the excellent quality is well known in Russia, will probably come into Russia in large quantities by the Suez route.

5. *Sago.*—Sago is but little used in Russia. Its average price in Russia is R. 8·30 per pood (68s. 8d. per cwt.) The import duty is 1 R. per pood (9s. 9d. per cwt. at par.)

6. *Spices.*—The most important of these, in the Russian trade, are pepper, cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmegs,

* Now 24 per cent. less.

mace, ginger &c. (*vide* Table A. [illegible]
The prices were as follows in 1869 :—

AT ST. PETERSBURG—

Pepper, black..	R. 7 to R. 7 60	per pood	(58s. to 63s.
Cardamom ...	,, 120 to ,, 130	,,	(£49-13 to £53-15 ,,
Cloves ...	,, 7	,,	(58s. ,,
Clove-heads ...	,, 6 to ,, 7	,,	(49s. 8d. to 58s. ,,
Nutmegs ...	,, 28 ,,	,,	(£11-11-8 ,,
Mace ...	,, 26	,,	(182s. ,,

AT ODESSA—

Pepper ...	R. 7 20 to R. 7 30 per pood	(59s. 8d. to 60s. 6d. per cwt.)
Clove-heads ...	,, 5	(41s. 5d. ,,)
Cinnamon ...	,, 22	(182s. ,,)

The duties charged on this importation into Russia are as follows :—

Cardamom, mace, nutmegs, and cinnamon, R. 2-50 per pood (24s. 7d per cwt.)*
Cloves, pepper, ginger, &c.... ... ... ,, 1-50 ,, (14s. 8d. per cwt.)

7. *Silk.*—Russia imports only the higher qualities of raw and spun silk. She draws the bulk of her supplies of raw silk from the Caucasus and from Central Asia. Its importation from China and Japan is not expected to increase much. Mr. Skalkoffsky considers that about 6,000 poods (1,930 cwt.) may be annually brought to Russia by the Suez Canal at a cost of £20 per ton. The prices of Chinese silk were as follows at Moscow :—

Flos	R. 290 to R. 360	per pood	(£120 to £149 per cwt.)
Organzine	,, 450 ,, ,, 570	,,	(£186 ,, £236 ,,)

The import duties in Russia on silk are as follows :—

Silk, raw and waste	50c.	per pood	(4s. 11d. per cwt.)†
,, twist, tram and organzine	R. 5	,,	(49s. 1d. ,,)
,, yarn of silk waste...	,, 4-50	,,	(44s. 1d. ,,)

8. *Tin.*—The quantity of tin imported into Russia is small. England supplies almost half the quantity. The prices of tin in 1869 were as follows :—

AT ST. PETERSBURG—

Tin in blocks ...	R. 18 to R. 19	per pood	(£7-9-0 to £8-17-0 per cwt.)
,, bars (rods)...	,, 16 to ,, 17-50	,,	(£6-12-5 ,, £7 4-10 ,,)

AT ODESSA—

Tin in bars ...	R. 20 to R. 21	per pood	(£8-5-6 to £8-13-9 per cwt.)

* At the par exchange; now 24 per cent. less.

† At par; now 24 per cent. lower.

[redacted]ng in Russia. The duty charged [redacted] copecks per pood, or 1s. 11½d. per [redacted]rate of exchange.

[redacted]prices of gum and drugs in Russia in 1869 were [redacted]ows :—

At St. Petersburg—

Common incense storax	R. 8 to R. 14	per pood	(66s. 2d. to 115s. 10d.	per cwt.)
Gum benzoin	„ 40 „ „ 90	„	(£16-11-0 „ £37-4-9	„
„ Ammoniac	„ 8 „ „		(66s. 2d.	„
„ Arabic	„ 9 „ „ 13	„	(74s. 5d. „ 107s. 6d.	„
Gamboge	„ 55 „ „ 78	„	(£22-15-0 „ 32-5-0	„
Copal	„ 9 „ „ 10	„	(74s. 5d. „ 82s. 9d.	„
Shellac	„ 12 „ „ 15-50	„	(89s. 3d. „ 128s. 4d.	„
Catechu	„ 5-50	„	(45s. 7d.	„
Kino	„ 3	„	(24s. 9d.	„
Gall-nuts	„ 13-50 to R. 15	„	(111s. 8d. to 124s. 2d.	„
Camphor	„ 20-50 „ „ 23-50	„	(169s. 8d. „ 194s. 5d.	„
Turmeric	„ 4		(33s. 1d.	„

The import duties to which the above goods are liable are as follows :—

Gums, resins	30c.	per pood	(2s. 11½d.	per cwt.)*
Storax	R. 1	„	(9s. 9d.	„
Gum benzoin	„ 4	„	(39s. 2d.	„
Gamboge	„ 1-10	„	(10s. 9d.	„
Gall-nuts	„ 5	„	(6d.	„
Camphor	„ 30	„	(2s. 11½d.	„
Turmeric	„ 5	„	(6d.	„
Shellac	„ 30	„	(2s. 11½d.	„
Catechu, Kino	free.			

10. *Tea.*—Mr. Skalkoffsky advises the merchants of Russia to send their tea to Odessa direct from Shanghai by way of the Suez Canal. By the overland route, through Mongolia, the tea of China takes 14 months to reach the fair of Nijni Novgorod, whereas by the Suez route it could come in 60 to 65 days from China. The sea-borne tea, which at present enters Russia, is principally shipped from London. Mr. Skalkoffsky does not think that much East Indian tea will enter Russia, where it is almost unknown.

The cost of carriage from Foochoo to Suez is about 95c. per pood (7s. 10d. per cwt.), and that from Suez to Odessa 30 copecks per pood (2s. 6d. per cwt.)

The expense of carrying tea from Odessa to Moscow, inclusive of all charges for commissions, &c., is about R. 1-30 per pood (10s. 9d. per cwt.) Consequently, the cost of the tea shipped to Odessa from Shanghai is increased by R. 2-53

* These duties are calculated at the par exchange. They are now 24 per cent. lower.

per pood (21s. per cwt.). On the c
carrying it to Moscow by way of Kiakht
per pood (£3-12·9 to £5 per cwt.), or 2
copecks per Russian lb. (8½ to 10½d. per lb. avoir.)
by Suez, independently of great loss of time by the
route. By way of the Cape, the present cost of carrying te
is as follows :—

Freight. Shanghai to London, £6 to £8 per ton.
,, London to St. Petersburg, 30s. ,, ,,
,, St. Petersburg to Moscow, 50c. per pood (83s. 4d. per ton.)*
Total cost, R. 2 40 per pood (£19-16-8 ,,)

The prices of tea were as follows in 1869 :—

At St. Petersburg—

Black Congou, 75c. to 100c. per lb (2s. 2d. to 2s. 11½d. per lb. avoir.)
,, Souchong, 95c. to 100c. ,, (2s. 10d. to 2s. 11½d. ,,)
Flowery Pekoe, 150c. to 200c. ,, (4s. 5d. to 5s. 11d. ,,)

At Moscow—

Canton (sea-borne) tea, 85c. to R. 1 per lb. (2s. 6d. to 2s. 11½d. per lb.)

At Odessa—

Tea, 1st sort ... 160c. to 200c. per lb. (4s. 8½d. to 5s. 11d per lb.)
,, 2nd ,, ... 120c. ,, (3s. 6½d. ,,)
,, 3rd ,, ... 100c. ,, (2s. 11½d. ,,)

The duty on tea imported on the overland and maritime frontiers of Russia in Europe is as follows :—

Flowery, green and yellow, R. 22 per pood, or £10 16-3 per cwt. †
Ordinary black and brick tea, R. 15 40 ,, or £7-11-3 ,, †

Exports.—After passing in review the various articles of commerce that may be brought to Russia by the Suez Canal route, Mr. Skalkoffsky shows that Russia has but few goods to export to the far East wherewith to pay even for the indigo or coffee which she will import. Among the goods that might, perhaps, be to some extent exported the following are mentioned :—

1. *Flour and Biscuits.*—These find a market even now in Egypt and in the Red Sea. Flour might be exported to the East Indies, as well as maccaroni as vermicelli.

2. *Coals.*—The coal of the Don basin, when reduced in price (which is at present 14 copecks per pood (1s. 3d. per

* This total does not agree in sterling with the previous items. Mr. Skalkoffsky has probably taken the par exchange in converting sterling into Russian money.

† At the par rate of exchange ; now 24 per cent. lower.

[redacted]F.

[redacted]be carried even to Bombay, and sold [redacted]55 copecks per pood (4s. 7d. per cwt.)

[redacted]allow, salt *beef*, butter,—all these, Mr Skal[redacted]nks, might be exported with profit to Egypt, and [redacted] to the East Indies.

4. *Cattle and Horses.*—There is a great demand for Russian cattle at Alexandria.

5. *Candles and Soap.*—Mr. Skalkoffsky thinks that Russian soap and candles might compete in Egypt with similar French and Australian goods.

7. *Ice.*—Large quantities might be shipped to Egypt, the Red Sea, and the East Indies from the Sea of Azoff.

9. *Cordage.*—Russian cordage reaches the East Indies by way of Hamburg and England. If depôts were established at Aden and Bombay, a large trade might be done.

10. *Timber.*—Much required in Egypt, Arabia, and on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Might be exported in large quantities in sailing vessels from Kherson, Taganrog, and the Eastern Coast of the Black Sea.

11. *Kerosine*, made in the south of Russia, might be exported to Egypt, where large quantities of American Kerosine are now consumed. It may become an important article of commerce in the East Indies.

12. *Salt* might be exported to Calcutta from the coast of the Black Sea.

13. *Spirits.*—There is a considerable demand for spirits in Egypt, and Russia can well compete with the spirits distilled in Austria and the United States.

14. *Boots and Shoes*, cloths, &c., might be sent to Egypt, and particularly for the Army.

15. Brocades and embroidered leather, in great demand in Egypt, Arabia, and on the shores of the Red Sea.

16. Tar, canvas, tow, &c., will be in great demand for ships navigating the Canal.

17. Hardware, &c., copperware, cheap fire-arms, stirrups, bits, cast-iron rots, knives, locks, brass coffee pots, dishes, &c., all cheaply made in Russia, would find a large market in the East.

18. *Textiles.*—Mr. Skalkoffsky thinks it possible to send good cotton prints, &c., up the Suez Canal. He quotes the *Times* to show that English cotton goods have acquired a bad reputation in the East, and urges his countrymen to study the Asiatic taste in those goods. He gives no facts

or figures in support of his opinion that Russian goods can be exported to India, &c., with...

In summing up this part of his Report, Mr. ... says that it would not as yet be safe to reckon upon more than 500,000 poods (about 8,000 tons) weight of Russian goods (irrespective of coal) that might be exported in return for cotton, indigo, &c.

Probable value of exports from Russia.

He thinks that at the utmost the value of the Russian exports by the Suez Canal would not amount to more than 1½ or 2 millions of Roubles (£188,000 or £250,000).

In conclusion, Mr. Skalkoffsky enquires into the position and prospects of the Russian Steam Navigation Company in the Black Sea. He thinks that the Company (being subsidized by the Government) should not be guided by commercial considerations alone, and that it should not, by running steamers, promote the trade of ports in which Russia could have no interest, such as Bussorah and Kurrachee.

It should not look so much to the quantity of goods which it carries as to the duty of extending Russian trade in Egypt on the shores of the Red Sea and in the East Indies.

Russian line of steamers to Bombay.

The Company, he urges, should maintain six steamers (and one in reserve) on the line between Odessa and Bombay. These steamers should not carry Manchester goods, which penetrate into Central Asia and compete with Russian cottons carried there at great cost, nor should they visit Bussorah and Kurrachee, which compete with Russian wools, linseed, &c.

Calcutta, Colombo, Penang, and Batavia, are not as yet of sufficient importance to Russian trade and navigation to warrant any Government aid in the establishment of a line of Russian steamers.

Measures recommended for developing trade *via* Suez and Odessa.

Mr. Skalkoffsky terminates his Report by recommending the adoption of the following measures in addition to the establishment of a line of steamers to Bombay :—

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* In 1867 the number of cotton-spinning and weaving manufactories in the Russian Empire was 48 and 586 respectively, the number of hands employed in those factories being about 97,000.

The value of the cotton goods manufactured in Russia was, at the same period about 12 millions sterling.

[redacted] port charges and transit dues.

[redacted] vement of the navigation of the Sea of [redacted] is not, according to Mr. Skalkoffsky, included [redacted] pulations of the Treaty of Paris, and which should, [redacted] efore, he thinks, give shelter to Russian vessels-of-war.

3. The establishment of Bonded Warehouses at Kief and Kharkof.

4. Reforms in the excise laws, which would admit of Russian spirits being exported with greater advantage.

5. A re-arrangement of the rates of coinage and the classification of goods on Russian railways.

6. The establishment of Russian Branch Banks at Bombay and Shanghai.

7. The laying of a Submarine Cable between Odessa and Constantinople.

8. The immediate appointment of a Russian Consul at Bombay. "He should be a sensible and energetic representative of the merchant class, or a Naval Officer."

9. A careful study of the trade of the far East.

10. A reduction of Customs duties on goods brought direct from the far East in Russian ships.

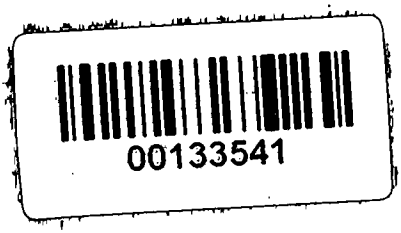
(Sd.) T. MITCHELL.

ST. PETERSBURG,
The 1st August, 1870.

FUNDS OF THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR 1870-71.

Disbursements.	Amount.			Receipts.	Amount.		
	Rs.	a.	p.		Rs.	a.	p.
Rent	2,450	0	0	Balance at the credit of the Chamber in account with Messrs. W. Nicol & Co., late Treasurers, transferred to an account with the New Bank of Bombay, Limited, August 3rd, 1870.	9,733	7	6
Printing	1,514	8	0	Subscriptions and Publications	22,186	8	0
Advertisements	252	5	3	Realized by Daily and Weekly Trade Returns and Manifests	4,824	0	0
Newspapers and Books	271	8	0	Realized on Cotton Measurement Fee account	17,191	2	8
Furnitures	143	4	0	Do. Miscellaneous Receipt for Stamping Callipers, &c.	16	0	0
Postage and Receipt Stamps	178	4	5				
Office Salaries and Petty Charges, &c.	8,625	14	6				
Stationery	296	12	0				
Daily and Weekly Trade Returns and Manifests :—							
Salaries ....Rs. 6,034 0 0							
Printing .... ,, 7,753 12 0							
	13,787	12	0				
Cotton Measurement Establishment :—							
Salaries ....Rs. 15,291 11 6							
Printing & petty charges ,, 774 7 2							
	16,066	2	8				
Stamping Cheques on the Chamber's Pass books	1	11	0				
Balance	10,363	0	4				
Total....Rs.	53,951	2	2	Total....Rs.	53,951	2	2

Balance in hand at the New Bank of Bombay, 6th September 1871 ....Rs. 10,363 0 4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